

Tigertalk

Volume 41

Issue 1

October 2015

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Scoop on New
Teachers

**Homecoming
Queen
Autumn Newman**

Inside: Homecoming, Sports and More

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Band Beau and Sweetheart are Anthony Martinez and Oriana Castro.

Tigertalk

NEWS STAFF

Editors: Yami Zuniga, Madora Jemison

Staff Writers, Photographers, Designers: Audrey Courreges, Raegan Davis, Alicengrace Gray, Abi Hobbs, Karla Landeros, Kenzie Messer, Na'Chyna Rogers, Donovan Theriot

Advisor: John Whitten

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Newman crowned homecoming queen

By **RAEGAN DAVIS**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Autumn Renea Newman was crowned 2015-2016 homecoming queen prior to the Tigers victory over Greenville.

She is the daughter of Tim, Mount Pleasant graduate of 1990, and Rachel Newman and Jeremy and Tina Ramey. Newman was escorted by her father and step-father Tim Newman and Jeremy Ramey. Newman says her family serves as her role models.

"They are such a big support in my life," Newman said of her family.

Newman enjoys spending time with her real and cheer family.

Newman said her favorite food is bar-b-que baby back ribs and her favorite restaurant is Texas Road House.

Newman's favorite class is Advanced Animal Science because she is "fascinated with animals." Her school activities include cheer, FFA, and volunteering with Cypress Basin Hospice. Her achievements are Head cheerleader, UCA all American cheerleader, honor roll student, and proud big sister of six. Her future plan are to go to college and major in CPS and social work.

Other homecoming queen nominees included Cecilia Alaniz, Brenda Godoy, Christina Kessler and Veronica Pina.

Alaniz is the 17-year-old daughter of Jesus and Rosa Alaniz and was escorted by Jesus Alaniz Jr. Her brother is her role model, and she enjoys playing in the band and eating all kinds of food. Her hobbies include working and sleeping.

Alaniz says her favorite subject is math "because Mrs. Jenkins is the real MVP."



Newman shows her happiness on being named queen.



Homecoming Princess Cecilia Alaniz

She plans on attending UT in Arlington and wants to visit France someday.

Godoy, 17, is the daughter of Policarpo and Esperanza Godoy, who are the role models for Godoy. Brenda was escorted by her dad. She wants to travel to England one day, and her favorite subject is physics because Godoy considers it challenging and it involves math.

Godoy's hobbies include playing volleyball with

friends and family. Her favorite food is chicken enchiladas, and she loves eating at Olive Garden.

Godoy's involvement in school activities are marching band, UIL, HOSA, NHS, and NTHS. Her many accomplishments are head section leader of the clarinets in band, historian in HOSA, vice president in NTHS, and three academic blankets. Her future plans are to attend

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UNT in Denton, major in biology, and then go to medical school to become a dentist.

Kessler, 17, is the daughter of Mike and Amy Kessler. Christina's mom is a 1985 MPHS graduate and her role model is her dad Mike Kessler, who was her escort.

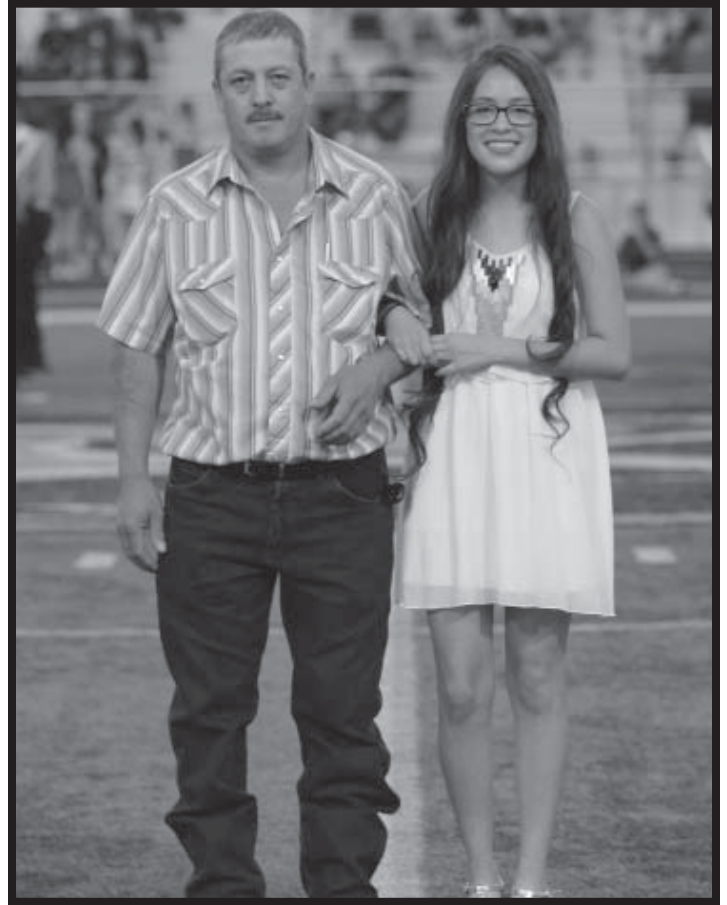
Kessler's hobbies include singing, writing music, playing the violin and playing video games. Her favorite vacation spot is Costa Rica, favorite food is pizza and her favorite place to eat is El Chico.

Kessler's school activities are involvement in NHS, NTHS, HOSA where she is president, and choir in which she made all state in. She plans on going to Baylor University to become a dentist. Her favorite subject in school is choir.

"Music is my God given gift," Kessler said.

Piña is the daughter of Juan and Maria Piña who serve as role models for Veronica. She was escorted by her dad. Piña enjoys playing soccer, hanging out with friends, listening to music, and watching movies. Her future plans are to go to NTCC to get her basics and then transfer to Texas A&M.

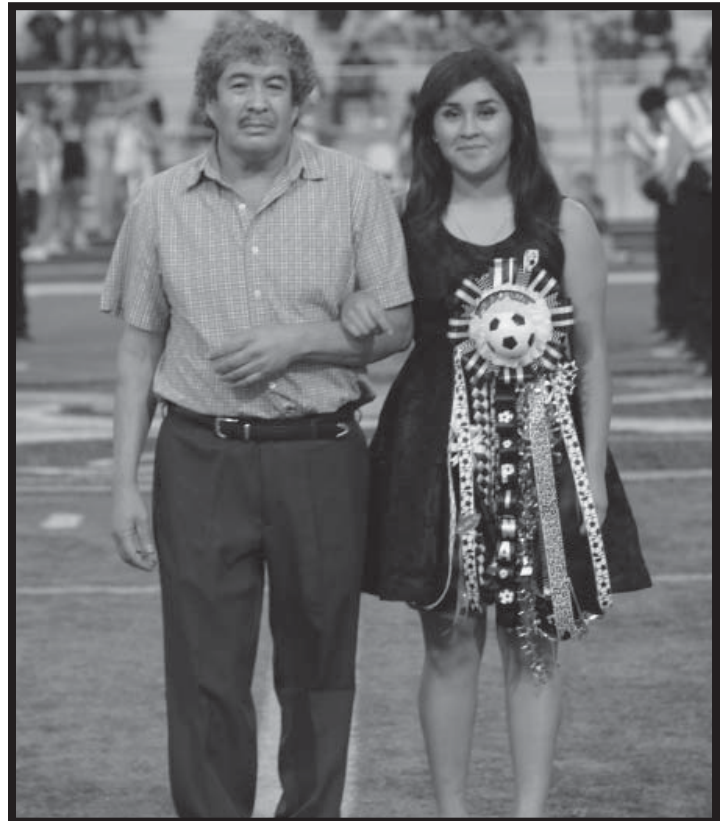
Piña's favorite school subject is math and she plays soccer for the school. Her favorite vacation spot is Cancun, Mexico. Her favorite food is tacos and her favorite restaurant is La Fogatta.



Homecoming Princess Brenda Godoy



Homecoming Princess Christina Kessler



Homecoming Princess Veronica Pina

Football Sweethearts selected

By **RAEGAN DAVIS**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Football players selected sweethearts for each team recently. The girls were recognized prior to the homecoming game.

Sophia Sanchez, age 17, is the daughter of Denise Sanchez and was named varsity sweetheart.

Her mother is a 1990 Mount Pleasant graduate. She was escorted by her uncle, Daryl Boyd, who graduated from MPHS in 1988. Her role model is her mom.

Sanchez enjoys fishing and hanging out with friends. Her favorite vacation spots are Ireland and Scotland.

"I love all food," Sanchez said and her favorite place to eat is Texas Road House.

Sanchez is involved in varsity volleyball, the bass fishing team and HOSA. Her favorite subject is athletics because she likes to work out and the competition. Her plans for the future are to to hopefully play volleyball in college and major in Kinesiology. Sophia would like to thank the men and women defending our country abroad and at home.

15 year-old Brizeth Alcalai is the daughter of David Alcalai and Maria Valdez and was named Junior Varsity sweetheart. Her role model is her mom and her hobbies include dancing. Her favorite vacation spot is Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Her favorite food is macaroni and cheese, and her favorite place to eat is Randy's Burgers.

Alcalai is involved in Tiger Dolls and Step Team. She was also freshman sweetheart. Her future plans are to become a lawyer and her favorite subject is English because she loves to read and write.

Aslin Barrientos is the 14year-old daughter of Josman Martinez and Ana Ibarra. Her role model is her mom. She enjoys running, playing soccer, and reading.

Her favorite vacation spot is Spain. Her favorite food is tacos, and her favorite restaurant is Chipotle.

Barrientos is involved in step team, cross country, soccer, book club, debate, track, and UBO.

Her future plans include attending Florida State University and playing soccer. Her favorite subject is science because of the lab work and learning about DNA and RNA entertain her.



Varsity Sweetheart Sophia Sanchez



JV Sweetheart Brizeth Alcalai



Freshman Sweetheart Aslin Barrientos

MPHS welcomes new staff

By **MADORA JEMISON**
Tigertalk Assistant Editor

Around 25 new staff members, including administrators, counselors, teachers and support staff joined the high school.

Jaden Avance is the new theatre director and a new teacher overall. She graduated from Southern Arkansas University earning a Bachelor's degree in theatre arts. Avance's main focus for this year is "getting to know the students and developing a routine."

Elizabeth Bailey is the new teacher for Law Enforcement II, and Dual Credit. She graduated from Texas A&M Commerce earning a Bachelor degree of Science in Criminal Justice; and a Masters of Applied Criminology. This marks Bailey first year as a teacher.

Bailey grew up as the youngest of her family. Her father is an attorney and her mother's is an administrative assistant for Texas A&M Commerce.

Bailey recently got married to Shannon Bailey. The Bailey's love to travel across the U.S to experience the different states and places.

"One of my favorite places we have visited has been Boston," said Bailey.

Donna Baker is the new Life Skills educator. She graduated from college earning a Bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology and Special Education. She is currently married to James Baker with one son-Jonah Baker who is a student at Wallace.

Baker has taught in more



Avance



Bailey



Baker

than one state for her 25 years of experience. She taught in Mississippi, Louisiana, and currently Texas. In Texas, Baker taught in Fort Worth and then moved to MPISD, where she taught at "CDC, MPJHS, Coppew, and now MPHS."

In high school Baker marched in the marching band where they marched at Disney World and the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans.



Blaize

However, she didn't stop in high school she marched for the University of Southern Mississippi for one year.

Baker is an active member at Emmanuel Baptist Church and loves to cook, bake and write.

Benjamin "Benny" Blaize is the new Freshman Skills teacher. He graduated from A&M Commerce

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with a degree in Educational Leadership.

David L. Clark is the new English II teacher. He graduated from Texas A&M Texarkana earning a Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics.

Clark has returned to MP-
ISD to teach however, first he was a student; who graduate from MPHS in 1981.

Clark has been married for 20 years to his wife Susan. They had five children, three girls, and two boys. He loves to sing and his a high school volleyball referee and softball umpire

Jodie Crowder is the new teacher for 10th grade English and Tiger Academy. She graduated from college with an English and History degree.

Crowder grew up the second youngest in her family, in Omaha, Texas. She is married to Joshua Crowder and they have two daughters, Braylynn and Jakyllyn.

Crowder has been teaching for eight years, 2 years at Henderson Middle School; 2 years at Pittsburg Intermediate, and four years at MPISD.

"I was blessed to wake up this morning and be given another 24 hours to make an impact for good in the people I meet along the way," Crowder said.

Jennifer Griner is the new Algebra 1, Geometry, and Math Models teacher. She graduated from Texas A&M Commerce with a bachelor's and masters' degrees. This will be Griners' first year to teach.

Griner has three boys and is currently serving as a Sergeant in the Texas Na-



Clark



Crowder



Griner



Hunnicut

tional Guard. That isn't all she also teaches P31 Fitness classes 5 days a week.

"I enjoy running, spending time camping with my boys, ad working with the Boy Scouts," Griner said.

Slatyr Hunnicut is the new Ag teacher for 9th through 12th graders.

He graduated from Texas A&M Commerce earning a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Science and Technology.

Not only did he earn a degree from Commerce, Hunnicut also competed in

the College National Finals Rodeo where he finished in 4th place.

Hunnicut grew up in Bonham, Texas with four siblings.

Both his mom and dad are teachers as well so he grew up already familiar with the educational field. Slatyer got married just this past Oct. 3 to Ms. Kelsey Franks.

This school year will be Hunnicuts' first year of teaching.

"I enjoy teaching and really

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like my co-workers. I have already learned so much. Ready to see where this career takes me!" Hunnicut said.

Ingrid Lizaso is the new 11th and 12th grand environmental science teacher. She earned her Bachelors' degree in Chemistry. Although this is her first her teaching at MPISD she taught 4 years at Garland ISD. Overall she has been teaching for 10 years.

Kristy McCollum is the new sophomore English teacher. She graduated from Texas A&M Texarkana with a BAAS in Behavioral Science.

McCollum is married to Jamie McCollum and they had a son, Zach.

"We enjoy spending time together and day tripping to nearby towns," McCollum said.

McCollum is currently in the process of receiving her certification with iTeach Texas. She came to rely how important her education is later in life. McCollum will be being pursuing her Master's degree within the upcoming year.

Jay Silman is the new associate principal and CTE director. He graduated from Texas A&M Commerce with a Masters of Education.

Silman has years of experience in the educational field underneath his belt. He started at Pittsburg as a Chemistry and Health teacher. He also coached varsity football, baseball, and was the head track coach. For three years Silman was the Assistant Principal at Mount Pleasant Junior High. Addition-



Lizaso



McCollum



Silman



Stanage

ally he is involved with rodeos. He frequently traveled and competed in team roping.

Silman has a family of three; his wife Kelly who teaches at Sims, and two children, Kaylee-9, and Kolter-6.

Dane Ryan Stanage is the new PE/ Study hall teacher. He graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelors' degree in Human Performance. Afterwards,

Stanage transferred to UT Brownsville and obtained a masters' degree in Educational Leadership.

Stanage has been teaching for 14 years. The majority of his years were at Port Isabel; where he lived on South Padre Island.

Stanage loves to travel he has seen the "Bahamas, Hawaii, Canada, and all of the states in the North East

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part of the United States.” He spends most of his summers traveling to places he has never seen before.

Joyce Talbert is an aide in Life Skills. She graduated from college with an associate degree of applied science.

Talbert is married to Stanley Talbert and they have four children; Shanita, Krystal, Tyrone, and Cassondra. She also has two grandchildren, Tylan and Bryce.

“I love to shop and spend time with my family,” Talbert said.

Talbert is an active member at Sheppard Street Church, where she is the secretary and works with the youth.

Robert Taylor is the new teacher for 10th grade Biology. He graduated from Southwest Texas State University, which is now known as Texas State University.

Taylor has been married for 35 years to his wife Lisa who teaches at Mt. Vernon. They have one son and two daughters. On top of that he has seven grandchildren.

Taylor has been teaching for 37 years and this year will be his fourth year teaching at MPISD. However, aside from teaching he was an underwater show performer. He performed at Aquarena Springs in San Marcos, Texas.

“I would stay underwater for about 30 minutes doing the show,” Taylor said.

Dawn Trickey is the new freshman counselor. She graduated from Texas A&M Commerce with a bachelors’ degree in Business and a Master’s degree



Talbert



Taylor



Trickey



Yusinco-Cowgill

in counseling.

Trickey is married to Bryan Trickey who teaches chemistry at MPHS. They have two children, a son, Garrett, and a daughter, Samantha.

All of Trickey’s years of experience has been with MPISD. She taught Career and Technology for fourteen years to junior high students. Then she became a counselor at MPJH for the past seven years.

Rosemichael Yusinco-Cowgill is the new 9th grade environmental systems teacher. She graduated

from college and earned her Bachelor’s degree in applied physics.

Yusinco-Cowgill’s family is from Manila, Philippines. She has seven siblings and she is married to Charles Cowgill, Jr.

Yusinco-Cowgill has been teaching since 1994. She has taught the majority of her years at an all-girls school, and just one year in an all-boys school. However, she had to quit her career in the Philippines when she got married to a foreigner. Yusinco-Cowgill had to relocate in another country.

Homecoming Week

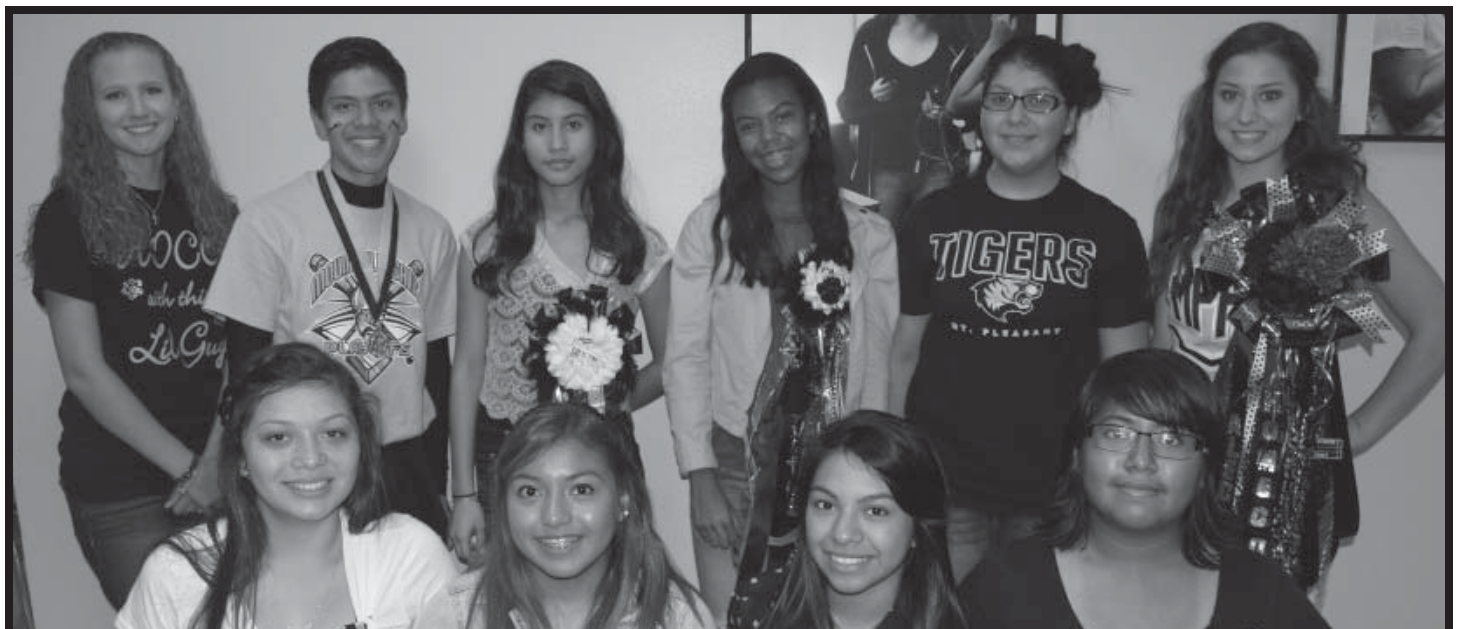


Students and staff got into the spirit for Homecoming Week as they decked out each day for the respective theme.

For the week, the different theme included "Superhero Day," "College Day," "Sports Day," "Disney Day," and "Black and Gold" Day.

The week was capped off with the crowning of Autum Newman as homecoming queen and the Tigers defeating Greenville.





Tigers open district action with two consecutive wins

By NA'CHYNA ROGERS

Tigertalk Staff Writer

After a rocky start to the season, the varsity football team has turned their year around since district play.

The Tigers opened district play with a victory over Greenville on Homecoming night and followed it up with a 31-30 win on the road at Sulphur Springs.

"Winning our first game was extremely rewarding. Our kids have been working towards this goal for over a year and Friday they got rewarded after playing great game of football. Our offense, defense and special teams all dominated Greenville," Coach Matt Smith said.

They have been practicing really hard for district throughout the season and now it is paying off.

"We do basic position drill that get our footwork better and plays that's getting us ready for the next game," Junior JK Lee said.

Senior Zak Dean said he believes this season holds a lot of promise.

"I feel like this season is going a whole lot better than last season, we're more of a team," Dean said.

Smith has high hopes for the season as well.

"I'm absolutely excited about this season. There is nothing better than Texas High school football. It is the greatest team there is. I honestly believe it is one of the few things that teaches young men to be accountable to other people," Smith said.

As the team continues into district, Smith said that the team will have their work cut out for them.

"District is going to be tough, we have several good teams in our district. We won't play one team in our district that is an automatic win. Every district game will be tough," Smith said.

Dean said getting that first win in district with it being homecoming was an awesome feeling.

"It felt great to win homecoming we always believed we were going to win the game. It felt even better because we're 1-0 in district," Dean said. The Tigers came up short Friday night against Hallsville,



Travion Holloman carries the ball for the Tigers.



Coach Matt Smith talks to players.

leaving their record at 2-1 heading into this week's game against Pine Tree.

After the game with Pine Tree, the Tigers will have three more district games to close out the regular season.



Coach Stewart gives encouragement to players during a timeout.

Volleyball fighting for playoff spot

By MADORA JEMISON
Tigertalk Assistant Editor

As the 2015 volleyball season comes to a close the varsity girls are striving to play in the playoffs.

“Right now we’re fighting for a playoff spot and working really hard toward that,” said Sophie Sanchez.

However, striving to obtain a spot presents difficulties for our varsity girls.

“The biggest challenge would have to be our height, our tallest girl is 5’8” and we’re playing against girls that are 6’3”,” said Sanchez.

Not only is their height a challenge, but having lower classmen on varsity can present its own challenge.

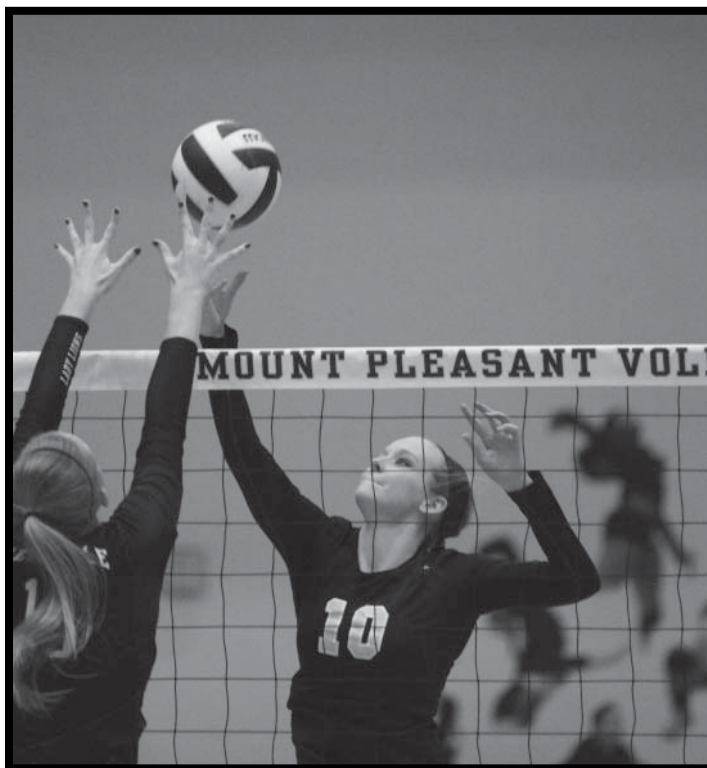
“The biggest challenge this year as a sophomore on varsity has been the transition and the continuing pressure,” said Shelbi Haupt.

Their on-going passion for the game is what will help them strive to the playoffs. For many players volleyball isn’t just some game it’s a passion and a way to connect with their teammates.

“Volleyball isn’t just a game to play it’s a lifestyle for me. When I’m on the court nothing else matters,” said Sanchez.

This season our varsity girls have impressed their fans. The majority of people didn’t believe they could defeat Pine Tree, due to the fact that they have never defeated them.

“The biggest thrill would be going out and doing what people didn’t think we would be able to do,” said Sanchez.



Shelbi Haupt goes up to put the ball over the net.

The teams’ goal is to continue to impress their fans and to win games, in order to continue on.

“I’m very proud of my team and how hard they have been working,” said Sanchez.

Other team members include Blakely Cheek, Sakaria Grant, Ashlynn Hill, Nikki Martin, Krissa Woods, Taylor Craig, Precious Thompson, Summer Baldwin and Myrka Vargas.



From left are the newest members of the Athletic Hall of Fame. From left are Maury Buford, R.E. Dodson, Dorothy Zimmerman, Leslie Harris Slovak, Richard Rockwell and Charles Wright.

Six inducted into Tiger Athletic Hall of Fame

Four former MPHS athletes and two former head coaches were honored Friday, Oct. 9 when they become the second group of former athletes and coaches inducted into the Tiger Athletic Hall of Fame.

Maury Buford, R.E. Dodson, Richard Rockwell, Leslie Harris Slovak, Charles Wright and the late Herb Zimmerman (represented by his wife Dorothy) were officially inducted into the Hall of Fame during pregame of the Tigers vs. Hallsville game.

They also served as honorary captains for the game and participate in the pre-game coin toss.

This year's inductees were chosen by a selection committee based on their accomplishments while at Mount Pleasant High School.

As recognition of their selection, each inductee will also receive a gold jacket featuring the Athletic Hall of Fame crest. Pictures of each inductee will also be displayed in the hallway of the Willie Williams Gymnasium. Guaranty Bank and Trust is the official sponsor of the annual event.

Maury Anthony Buford

As a Mount Pleasant High School student,

Buford played football, baseball, and ran track. He was also a member of the National Honor Society. During his high school athletic career, he and teammates won all district in football, baseball and track. He broke a long-standing school record in the 880 -yard dash and was a member of the State Champion Tiger baseball team in 1978.

Buford attended Texas Tech University where he served as a member of the football team from 1978-1981. He was named to the All Southwest Conference Team for two years and had the highest punting average in the nation my freshman year. Buford was drafted by the San Diego Chargers in the spring of 1978 and won Super Bowl XX with the Chicago Bears during the 1985 season.

R.E. Dodson

Dodson, a 1957 graduate of Mount Pleasant High School, played football, basketball and ran track all three varsity years.

His many high school accolades include: 1955 All District Football for both offense

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and defense; 1956 All District Football again both offense and defense; 1956 Honorable Mention All State Football; 1955 Regional Champion in the 440-yard relay and MPHS Most Athletic 1957.

He was offered football scholarships to all Southwest Conference schools and to Oklahoma, Dodson chose Texas Christian University. He was a letterman on back-to-back SWC Championship teams in 1958 and 1959.

Richard Rockwell

Rockwell participated in track and field and played football while at MPHS. He was a member of the 1972 and 1973 district champion football teams as a running back and also a member of the 1973 State Football finalist team. In 1972, he was a member of the state track championship team and the 1973 state track runner-up team. He participated in the 400 meters at the state meet his senior year in 1974.

Leslie Slovak

Slovak played basketball, volleyball and tennis at MPHS. She was named all district and all region in basketball, three time all district in volleyball, twice named all region and all state in volleyball. She also played in the TOGA volleyball all-star game and was academic all-state in volleyball.

She attended East Texas State University, now Texas A&M University-Commerce, where she played volleyball. She was a three time all conference, four time Lone Star Conference Player of the week, set the NCAA record for all division I, II and III schools for most kills in a match, third on the all-time kill list at AM Commerce and third on the all-time list for most aces.

Charles Wright

Wright served in almost ev-



Buford receives his jacket from AD and head football coach Corey Homer.

ery capacity known in his 37 years with Mount Pleasant ISD. He worked as a teacher, counselor, teacher evaluator, assistant superintendent and superintendent.

As a coach, he coached eighth grade in all sports at P.E. Wallace, ninth grade in football and track, was varsity assistant football coach working with the defense and head track coach at Mount Pleasant High School.

A graduate of MPHS, Wright was captain of the football team his senior year and made several all-tournament teams in basketball.

Herb Zimmerman

Zimmerman grew up on farm outside Mt. Vernon and graduated from Mt. Vernon High School. He attended TCU where he played football. He made all SW Conference and in his senior year (1952) he also made honor-

able mention All American. He was drafted by the Green Bay Packers his senior year at TCU, but due to an injury was unable to report to Green Bay.

He took an assistant football coaching job in Weatherford and in 1955 came to Mount Pleasant. At the time, the program was in disarray. Herb and his assistant coaches, John Maughon and Sam Morrow took the program from a losing situation to the state semi-finals in 1959 where they lost to Breckenridge.

After the 1959 season, Coach John Bridgers at Baylor University hired Herb as a defensive coach and later defensive coordinator. After the 1966 season, Coach Hayden Frey called Herb to come to SMU as the defensive coordinator. In 1995, he was inducted into the TCU Sports Hall of Fame,

Cross country girls win Titus County Fair meet

The Lady Tigers cross country team took first place recently in the Titus County Fair Invitational.

Martina Ramirez led the Lady Tigers with a time of 20:00.88 to finish first place overall.

Briana Castaneda came in third overall at 20:32.17, Aslin Barrientos sixth at 20:50.49, Grasiela Gao-na seventh at 20:58.16, Emily Brown ninth at 21:15.53, Lisette Dejesus 17th at 22:02.18 and Karina Pena 25th at 23:29.19.

In the varsity boys competition, the Tigers took fourth place.

Top runner for the Tigers was Hugo Valdez, who came in 9th place at 16 minutes, 17.06 seconds.

Other runners for the Tigers were Giovanna Rocha, 23rd at 17:04.62, Jesse Hernandez 24th at 17:22.65, Jesse Morales 27th at 17:39.16, Israel Hernandez 32nd at 18:12.2, Angel Flores 35th at 18:45.65 and Noah Aguilar 39th at 19:18.66.

The Lady Tigers Junior Varsity team also took first place in competition.

Shelby Daniels took first overall in the Titus County Fair Invitational JV girls division with a time of 14:14.36. Morgan Martin was next for the Lady Tigers in third at 15:10.72.

Zurishaddai Moreno placed sixth in 15:54.76, Malin Sauermann seventh at 16:25.03, Andrea Flores 14th at 17:29.10 and Ashley Rodriguez 21st at 18:43.47.

In junior varsity boys competition, the Tigers took third place.

Jose Mata was the team's leading runner in 13th place at 19:18.44. Next was Ariel Baez in 16th at 19:42.87, Luis Ramirez 17th at 19:44.83, Abel Bernardi 23rd at 20:04.13, Diego Lugo 27th at 20:24.95, Jason Alvarado 37th at 21:17.17 and Damien Gwin 40th at 21:46.65.

Both teams were competing at the district meet this week.



Varsity boys take off during the Titus County Fair Invitational.



Lisette Dejesus was among those running for the Lady Tigers.

Coming to America:

Two foreign exchange students adjusting to living in America, going to school here

By YAMI ZUNIGA
Tigertalk Editor

Two German foreign exchange girls are spending their year at MPHS and experiencing the daily life of an American teenager.

Their names are Clara Gleixner and Malin Saurermann. They came from different parts of Germany.

Both are enjoying their stay here in Texas as the school year passes by, with the girls becoming accustomed to the life of an American high school student.

"Yes I love it, everything is different and bigger," Gleixner said.

"Yes I love it. It's very cool here but very different from what I expected," Saurermann said.

Both find Texas to be huge and different in many ways from how things are in Germany. They seem to enjoy the differences despite the fact that it is not what they are used to.

According to both Gleixner and Saurermann, their high school system is very different compared to what we Americans are used to here.

For the most part, an average school day in Germany only lasts until 12:00 p.m., while here we stay till 3:50 p.m. In Clara's school, they attend school on Saturdays since it is a boarding school.

In German schools, the class system varies with the day by only having specific classes held on a certain day.

"School here is very different and great but I am not used to being here for such a long time, but am glad about not going on Saturdays," Gleixner said.

As foreigners to America, both have experienced and noticed weird things since they've been here.

"Nobody here rides a train or



Saurermann and Gleixner are both from Germany.

walks from place to place and nobody has a WhatsApp," Clara said.

The transportation system in Texas is way different from what Gleixner is used to since it is a common way to go to place to place in Germany.

There are several differences between Germany and Texas that separate us from them greatly. For the most part, Gleixner has noticed that people do not smoke in school here like they do in Germany.

"Any student is able to smoke at my school," Clara said.

"It is not that different here from Germany in many ways," Saurermann said. Malin has noticed that both places are pretty similar even if it may not seem like it to Americans.

The food here in America came out to be both of the girls' most favorite thing about our country. Both girls enjoy multiple foods made here in Texas since it is a very cultural blended society with all types of nationalities.

With Hispanic food and traditional Texan meals, both girls have become very fond of these traditional plates served here and absolutely love them greatly even if it is not their average

meal from Germany.

"The food here is very good," Malin said.

Each girl has a unique taste of music that expresses their personality. Clara absolutely loves German rap and hip hop and how the lyrics and beats sound well together. On the other hand Malin loves rock.

"My favorite music is rock and my favorite band is called Placebo," Saurermann said. Both have different music taste that could relate to anyone from America in many ways.

With their semester already half way done, the girls became somewhat homesick and are missing their family and friends back in Germany. "It is so hard not being able to talk with them at certain hours since it's usually evening when it's morning over here and they aren't always able to talk," Gleixner said.

Since Germany is seven hours ahead of Texas, Clara finds it hard to find time to talk to her parents and friends having only limited time to actually communicate with them at all. Saurermann is a bit homesick, missing her friends and family but tries to see the bright side of this program by enjoying her time here in Texas.

Band, Color Guard both growing

By ABI HOBBS
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The MPHS Goin' Gold Band and Color Guard have done well this year.

But nothing could have prepared them for the major incline of members this season.

"The color guard has grown tremendously, which means there are many new members. Sometimes it can be difficult to teach everyone, but they never give up. The tempo of the music is also difficult to match to and stay in step," Color guard Captain Adriana Rodriguez said.

Officers for color guard are Peyton McClendon-Squad Leader, Rebecca Farr-Lieutenant, Adriana Rodriguez-Captain, Anthony Martinez-Lieutenant, Natividad Macedo-Squad Leader.

The show wouldn't be a show without the main character herself --- Maleficent-played by Christina Kessler.

"I love being part of the half time show. I've always wanted to a part of it," Christina said.

Head Drum Major Alicengrace Gray likes the difficulty of the show.

"I like the difficulty of the show. It's a very challenging drill and it is pushing us to our greatest potential. We also have many props that pull the whole theme together. This year, we have Christina Kessler playing as maleficent and Reagan Ball playing as Aurora who makes the show complete," said Gray.

This year MPHS Goin' Gold Band will have to work twice as hard if they want to advance to state.

"The band has done phenomenal this year. We have spent countless hours of hard work on this show so we can be ready for competition and

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Kessler and Ball play the lead roles as Maleficent and Aurora in the band's halftime show.



Gray and Jesse Flores perform during the halftime show.

give it our all for ourselves and for the audience," said Alicengrace.

Having a close bond between team mates and directors will help them strive to state.

"I love the family atmosphere. All the members are great people and work together we make a great team. There's always someone you can go to for help in anything

you need," said Gray.

The band may have Maleficent but adding Aurora, Maleficent's enemy, brings more effect to the show.

"Being part of the band as Aurora is really fun. I have grown so attached to the band that I'm thinking about joining color guard next year," said Reagan Ball, "The show wouldn't be a show without the two main characters."

Making the transition from Harts Bluff to MPHS

By AUDREY COURREGES
Tigertalk Staff Writer

It's the first day of freshman year. Glancing around, all I see are unfamiliar faces. There's a cloud of insecurity inside of me wondering what people will think about me.

There are several cliché questions that keep circulating through my mind. Will I get shoved face-first into a trash can? Will someone try to tell me my class is on the second floor of the CTE building? I, along with virtually every other freshman, was scared out of my mind.

Trudging through the mob of people in the hallway, I just try to not get run over by the stampede. In first period, I recognize three people and immediately gravitate towards them. Other than them, I know no one.

What happened to seeing my class list at meet the teacher night and already knowing who everyone was? Last year I planned out my day before the school year even started. I knew who I would sit by in each class, which lunch table was mine, and where every teacher's room was. Well that was Harts Bluff and this is Mount Pleasant.

People who have not attended Harts Bluff would not likely understand what it means to have been a



Audrey Courreges part of that small family. After being around the same people for so long, I became close with each and every person and I knew they would always be there for me if I really needed them.

There's something to be said about a place where a person can only be himself because if he tried to be anyone else, everyone would immediately know that's not the real him.

At the end of my 8th grade year I had to decide what high school to go to my freshman year. I never really thought about which high school to attend before then.

High school always seemed so far away until it was undeniably close. Chapel Hill and Mount Pleasant started coming to talk to us about why we should go to their school.

Chapel Hill stated that their school is closer knit than Mount Pleasant. Mount Pleasant could

say they had more sports teams, more advanced classes, more CTE classes, and well basically -- more everything.

Chapel Hill was the safe choice, it resembles Harts Bluff. Mount Pleasant was intimidating, but it was also filled with so many more possibilities.

Obviously, I chose Mount Pleasant and am happily finding my way through the wonderful array of opportunities. There are new things around every corner.

I don't see an end to the surprises anytime soon. I love not knowing what I'm going to encounter throughout the day. I'm always talking to new people and realizing there actually are other people who share the same bizarre interests as I do.

I'm not going to lie. The first few days of school were overwhelming and I didn't know how I was going to survive high school. Expectations were raised in every aspect. The teachers wouldn't remind me to turn in a paper if I forgot. If I didn't understand something, it was my job to ask questions. I was expected to have a social life, participate in extracurricular activities and still make good grades. High school seemed impossible.

Somehow I made it through the first week, then the sec-

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Craver speaks to Book Club students at one of their meetings.

Library, Book Club growing

By KARLA LANDEROS
Tigertalk Staff Writer

MPHS library has been around since the opening of the school itself, and thus, has been witness to the evolution of the school over the years.

Even now as the changes to the school continue to grow for the better, the library itself has undergone some transformation to go along with the shifting student body.

Brandy Craver, the librarian, has been the one primarily involved with making our library better and putting in effect how important reading is, resulting in the book club.

Before joining the high school, Craver worked on the elementary level.

"I was a librarian at Fowler Elementary and the High School Position opened up. I interviewed and got the job. I was a little nervous about mov-

ing up from elementary to high school but it has been a great experience," Craver said.

The library, social wise, has grown over time to become something wonderful where students can come and enjoy themselves while searching the shelves of worlds for their next great read. Most tend to think libraries are where the nerds go and snort over a science-fiction book, but Craver has tried to make this small piece of book heaven turn into a place where anyone can come to simply hang out.

"I think students like how the library is set up. They also like being able to use the computers, buying coffee, and checking books, and working on projects," Craver said.

The Book Club was an idea thought up by several students years ago who

craved a place to bury themselves in books.

Now the Book Club has grown over expectations to turn into something all on its own. Even Craver, the creator of the club, is amazed by its success.

"I never thought that I would have around 80 members in my book club. When I first started out several years ago I only had about 20 members. We continue to grow each year," Craver said.

The sole reason of Book Club is to promote reading, and as of now, a new idea introduced by the librarian featuring members reading a book, creating a specific bookmark and slipping it back into the book after returning it, so that it'll be a visual summary for the next round of potential readers to look at.

Anyone who has a love

See Library, Page 21

Freshmen adjusting to high school

By DONOVAN THERIOT
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The 2015-2016 freshman are still making the transition from being a junior high student to being a high school student.

The students are adjusting to a new school, new teachers and new classes.

Alex Guzman said his favorite teacher is “Mrs. Deciga, who teaches Algebra. And of course Mrs. Merriman.”

Freshman Kaytlan Tidwell said she couldn’t pick just one course that she liked more than any other.

She replied with a huge grin plastered on her face, “Well I really love all the courses offered here at MPHS.”



Guzman

Tidwell said there are some noticeable differences between the junior high and high school.

“Yes, it’s very very different from junior high. It is a larger campus, along with more classes to offer. And it’s way more fun here!!” Tidwell said.

Audrey Courreges, another freshman, said that



Tidwell

her favorite extra-curricular activity is debate. Her favorite teacher is Mr. Guzman.

All the freshman agree that being on the high school campus is a big change from what they are accustomed to, but they are slowly making the necessary adjustments of being a freshman.

Library from Page 20

of reading is invited to join Book Club and participate in all of the exciting activities all club members will do. It includes movie nights at the library, gushing over the latest book the club read, and year end trip to Books-A-Million in Longview.

“We do a variety of things as a group. We have book discussions, projects that promote reading, visit authors, movie nights, and more. Students who enjoy reading would love our book club,” Craver said.

As for worrying about what books the club will choose from to read, anyone can recommend books, and everyone then gets to pick out of those. This keeps everything fair and even within all the possible types of genres the library offers.

“We choose from a variety of fiction books. Realistic fiction, fantasy, science fiction, etc...,” Craver said.

Overall, the library has helped many students, either in their studies or just getting a few moments away from the stress of school, and aid their efforts for a brighter future.

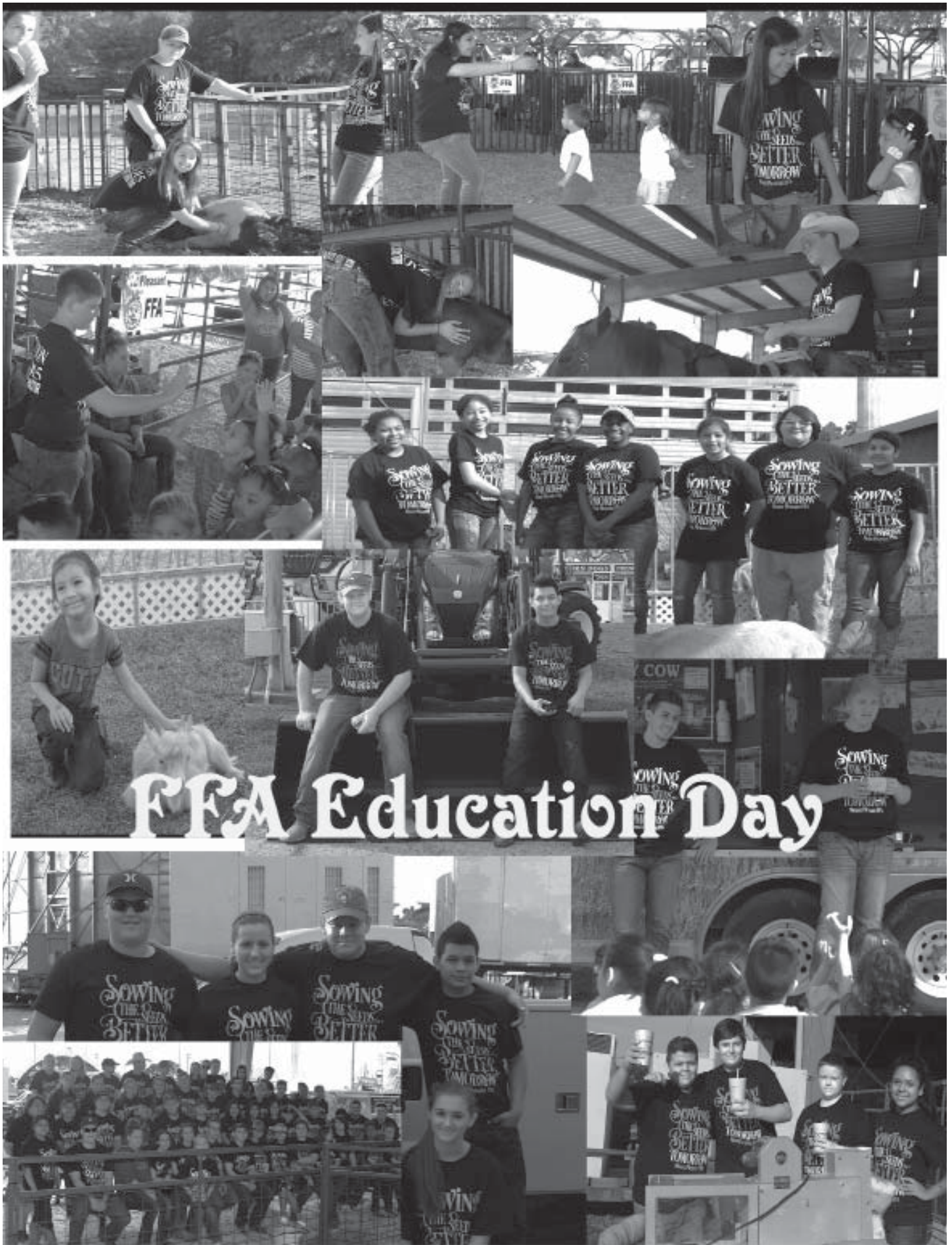
“My goal for the library is to help students and provide resources to help them be successful in school and prepare them for college. For the book club our goal is to promote reading for all MPHS students,” said Craver.

Audrey from

Page 19

ond, and even the third. I realized then that I could do this. My classes are turning out to be really great. I met some really amazing people. I don’t know why I was so worried in the first place.

I still don’t know most of the people in my classes, but I’m making more and more friends every day. I am surprised how many familiar and welcoming faces I see during school now. I really love being at Mount Pleasant. I had my eyes opened to a whole new realm of possibilities and people. Harts Bluff will always be in my heart, but in my few weeks attending Mount Pleasant, it has already left its mark too. I’m excited for all of adventures and opportunities to come.





Members of the Stomp Squad participate during a pep rally earlier this year.

Stomp Squad adds to the school's spirit

By NA'CHYNA ROGERS
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Stomp Squad is now in their second year of existence and has become one of the most energetic and the most talked about groups.

The team was created by Mrs. Jana Jenkins, who decided to bring something different and unique to the school. Leaders for the team include Mia Peeples as captain, Jennifer Mora as Step co-captain and Ke'Atra King as dance co-captain.

"I had a step team before in Chicago and Plano. I think that it's something different and unusual that don't get to see often," Jenkins said.

Mora said the ability to be a member of a group led to her joining.

"I joined the step team because I always wanted to be in something new and something fun, and it seemed like a good way to meet new people," Mora said.

The step team recently did their first pep rally performance. The audience reacted well to them.

"I felt nervous but, I had faith that we were gonna do good. I believed that all

our hard work was going to pay off," Mora said.

"I was expecting any kind of response, whether it was good or bad, but I'm happy and thankful that people liked our performance and we hope to still have that reaction for our other performances."

With a lot of nerves running through their body they calm down during their routine.

"We actually stand in a big circle linking arms and all the team captains say a few words. We pray then we walk into our performance in full step team mode, while we take a few pictures and videos for Snapchat and Instagram," Peeples said.

"It's amazing to just to see that the school supports something that is so new to most people to see that it can be accepted like any other hobby/sport and I know 100% that we love all our fans and supporters because without yall we would just be stepping for no reason," Peeples said.

You can catch them at the Senior Pep Rally, football games, talent shows, basketball games and Spring Show. They also go to elementary schools and other places they get invited.

Tiger Roar

Who would be your dream Homecoming date?

Tiger Roar page by Tigertalk Staff Writer Kenzie Messer



"Beyonce"

--- Kerry Harper, 12



"Matthew McConaughey"

--- Mrs. Broach



"Kim Kardashian"

--- James Moore, 11



"Zac Efron"

--- Katelyn Walden, 11



"James Dean"

--- Ashlynn Hill, 12



"Selena Gomez"

--- Michael Cortez, 10



"Kenzie Messer"

--- Roberto Alvarez, 10



"Liam Hensworth"

--- Mayra Villarruel, 12



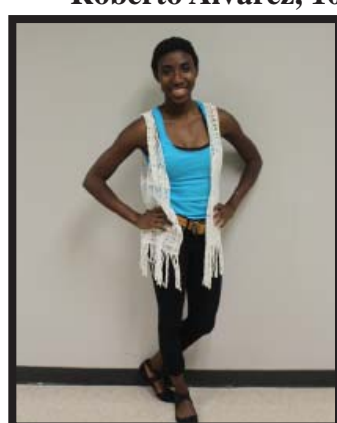
"Justin Bieber"

--- Bailey Sisk, 9



"Lindsey Espinoza"

--- Jorge Banda, 9



"LeBron James"

--- Tootie Grant, 11



"Mayra Villarruel"

--- Terrence Allen, 10,