

Tigertalk



Tigers have historic season

Inside:

- Debate, CTE success
- Winning sports teams
- National Merit finalist
- Art winners
- Band, choir students earn medals



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Alejandra Ramirez and Peyton Hein recently attended RYLA (Rotary Leadership Youth Award) camp. RYLA is a youther leadership camp for high school juniors.

Tigertalk

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Tigers set record for wins, reach regional semifinals

By GRACE WHITTEN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Tigers boys varsity basketball team had a historic season, beating the school record for most wins in a season with a record of 33-4.

By winning close games throughout their season and in their playoff run, the Tigers bought the support of fans from all across the area.

After gaining the district championship following their win against Greenville, the Tigers advanced to the playoffs.

They opened against the Whitehouse Wildcats in Longview. The boys won the game with a score of 52-43 and were crowned bi-district champions.

Round two was held in Rockwall against Midlothian. The Tigers found themselves down the first period, with a score of 19-9. The team soon readjusted their plays and brought themselves back up, with a score of 24 – 23 to start up the second half.

Sophomore Will Hills set a team high 12 points by dominating the paint throughout the night. The Tigers took the game with a score of 54-41, sending them into the third round of the playoffs.

The team advanced to face Kaufman High School in Tyler. The Kaufman Lions tied up the game with a buzzer beater 3-pointer. The Ti-

See Tigers, Pg. 4



Jamarion Brown and Payton Chism play tough defense.



Kelcey Morris goes up for a layup against Midlothian.



Coach Joey Chism guided the team to 33 wins.

Tigers from Page 3

gers went into overtime with their heads held high and took the game with a final score of 56 – 53.

The Tigers went on to compete at the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland to fight for the semifinalist position. After a hard and demanding game, the Tigers fell to the Kimball Knights with a final score of 60 – 63.

Congratulations to players Payton Chism, Brock Cooper Devin Williams, Kelcey Morris, Will Hills, Jamell Hargrave, Zaveion Okoh, Xzavier Brown, David Smith, Jamarion Brown, Jakybrein Hines, Miller McCrumby, Elijah Tagg, Edward Wilder, and Johnny Smith. Head coach is Joey Chism and assistants are Drew Barkley, Bobby Betts and Karlton Davis.



Zaveion Okoh drives to the hoop.



Brock Cooper looks to score two points.



Devin Williams guards a Kimball player.



Payton Chism drives by a defender.



Will Hills makes a pass to a teammate.



FBLA students had a great showing at the area meet.

FBLA has 52 reach state

By **DEBORA TREJO**
Tigertalk Editor

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students are busy preparing for their upcoming state competition after having a successful show at area.

MPHS had a very successful area competition with a record 52 members qualifying for state. Fourteen of those earned 1st place at the conference.

“Our FBLA students had an awesome day of competition at the area meet as we had a record number of students qualify for state,” FBLA Lead Advisor John Whitten said. “We have been busy the last few weeks preparing for state and look forward to the competition.”

After Spring Break, FBLA students will competed at the State Leadership Conference in Galveston on March 25-27.

Students advancing to the state in the following categories include:

- Accounting 1:** Rylan Hubbs 1st place
- Advertising:** Emma Baggett 1st place and Faith Logan 2nd place
- Broadcast Journalism:** Isabella Greco, Taylor Hubbs and Ryan Sharp 1st place
- Business Calculations:** Patricia Roque 1st place, Peyton Hein 2nd place, and Nathalie Burgemeister 4th place
- Business Law:** Michelle Calderon 2nd place
- Computer Problem Solving:** Caleb Ball 1st place

Cyber Security: Connor Brison 3rd place

Digital Video Production: Gavin Rider 1st place

Entrepreneurship: Katia Lopez and Anthony Cortez 2nd place

Graphic Design: Victor Diaz, Sashi Poudel, and Omar Ramirez 3rd place

Health Care Administration: Natalie Howard 1st place, Grace Whitten 2nd place, Jessie Nell Parchman 3rd place and Anna Elliott 4th place

Hospitality Management: Daisy Ayala and Hailey Benyshek 1st place and Valerie Moreno and Alejandra Ramirez 2nd place

Impromptu Speaking: Lucy Benalonzo 4th place

Insurance and Risk Management: Abby Mason 1st place, Jaqueline Juarez 2nd place, and Virginia Fuentes 3rd place

Introduction to Public Speaking: Rossy Banegas, 2nd place

Job Interview: Pearl Murrillo 2nd place
Journalism: Nevaeh Bardwell 2nd place and Bailey O’Neal 4th place

Marketing: Kylie Hedge, Taryn Thurman and Nicholas Segovia 1st place

Personal Finance: Mina Kollen Larsen 2nd place, and Felicity Miller 4th place

Political Science: Caroline Rose 2nd place

PSA: Madison Adams, Megan Adams

See FBLA, Pg. 7

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Pearson reaches finalist status for National Merit Scholarship

Senior Sam Pearson has advanced to Finalist standing in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program, a distinction that places him in a group representing less than one percent of U.S. high school graduating seniors.

Pearson now advances through the application phase and will compete for one of three types of National Merit Scholarships to be offered in 2020.

All finalists are being considered for a one-time \$2500 scholarship that will be offered on a state representational basis. Finalists who meet specific criteria of a company or business sponsor will be considered for one of about 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.

And finally, finalists who meet specific criteria may be considered for one of about 4,000 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards to be financed by U.S. colleges and universities that have made sponsor arrangements with national Merit Scholarship Corporation. Scholarship offers will be extended starting in mid-March.

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2018 PSAT, which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a Finalist, the



From left are MPHS Principal Craig Bailey, Sam Pearson and MPHS Senior Counselor Jerilyn Goolsby.

Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm the student's earlier

performance on the qualifying test.

Pearson has recently been accepted to the Honors program at Texas A&M at Commerce.

He is the son of David and Kim Pearson.

TAFE students make Nationals

Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) students recently attended the Teach Tomorrow Summit in McAllen.

Six TAFE members competed in six events and brought home two awards, including two students qualifying for Nationals.

Seniors Evelyn DeSantiago and Keyla Plancarte competed in Children's Literature Pre-K. Their score advanced them to the Educator's Rising National Conference to be held in Washington, DC on June 17-21.

Their book titled "Julie Sees Germs", teaches preschoolers about the spread of germs in classrooms and the importance of proper hand washing.

Plancarte also earned a Gold Certificate for her Portfolio, the highest award possible.

Also competing for MPHS were Mirka Soto and Sophy Turner with STEM lesson plans, Daniela Robles with an ARTS lesson plan, and Polyana Olvera in Creative Lecture.

"Future educators from The Mount Pleasant High School TAFE chapter competed at the state



Plancarte and DeSantiago advanced to Nationals.

level for the fifth year in a row in mid-February," said TAFE Advisor Aimee Sweeden.

"MPHS TAFE represented well at the Teach Tomorrow Summit 2020 in

McAllen, Tx in six different events. To say I am excited to return to Nationals is an understatement. I am proud of these ladies and grateful that I get to be a part of their journey."

FBLA from Page 5

and Tairielle Chong 2nd place

Public Speaking: Beth Lockett 1st place

Publication Design: Jenifer Deciga, Dorali Hernandez, and Jocelyn Paloblanco 2nd place

Sales Presentation: Ty-

ler Welborn 1st place

Securities and Investments: Shelby Courreges 1st place

Social Media: Gaven Fife and Skylee Ford 2nd place

Sports and Entertainment Marketing: Debora Trejo and Viridiana Ysasi

1st place

Also placing for MPHS was Laura Sanchez, 5th place in Agribusiness.

At the Area VI Leadership Conference, junior Faith Logan was named the Who's Who Award recipient.

HOSA has four advance to state

The Mount Pleasant High School chapter of HOSA: Future Health Professionals competed in the Area 3 Leadership Conference. The conference was held in McKinney and hosted thousands of students from over 100 schools.

Four students have advanced to state. Abby Mason, Caleb Ball, and Alexander VanRijn have advanced in Healthcare Issues, a 50-item, multiple choice test including an essay question.

Grace Whitten has advanced in HOSA Happenings. For this event, chapters tell the story of their HOSA-Future Health Professionals throughout the year using whatever form of communication they choose (i.e.: print newsletter, electronic newsletter, website, blog, social media



From left are VanRijn, Whitten, Mason and Ball. All four have advanced to the HOSA State Conference.

platform).

The HOSA State Conference is April 1-3 in Galveston.

MPHS HOSA advisors include Kristi Houchin, Angie Ayers, Stephanie Bumpus,

Rose advances to DAR state level

Senior Caroline Rose, was recently selected as the MPHS Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen. Out of eight high school entries into the local level, Rose has been selected to move on to the state level of competition. She was awarded a \$500 scholarship, a certificate, and a pin from the DAR.

The state winner will be announced in March and will represent the entire state of Texas at the national level of competition.

The Martha Laird Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsors the DAR Good Citizen program in our area.

The contest is designed to honor an outstanding young person in a high school's senior class who demonstrates the four qualities of a DAR Good Citizen: Dependability, Service, Leadership, and Patriotism.

Rose has been accepted to Texas A&M University in College Station where she will major in Psychology. She is the daughter of Kevin and Tracie Rose.



Kevin Rose, Tracie Rose, MPHS Principal Craig Bailey, Caroline Rose, and DAR representatives Mavis Brush and Lani Hightower



Front row from left: Jacinto Barboza, Alexis Bello, Jose Flores, Christian Flores, Erick Salazar and Gabriel Perez. Back row from left are Francisco Pina, Jaime Pena, Uzziel Perez, Enrique Ramos, Javier Bello, Jr., Jorge Palacios and David Garcia.

Electrical students qualify for state

Thirteen Electrical Technology students competed in the SkillsUSA District competition in Waco and all have advanced to the State competition in Corpus Christi to be held April 2-5.

In the Electrical Construction Wiring competition, Jacinto Barboza placed first and Francisco Pina placed second.

This "hands on" contest requires the students to follow a set of wiring instructions/plans for electrical circuits and conduit bending.

The students have approximately 4 hours to complete their wiring assignment created by Texas State Technical College Electrical Instructors. This will be the second trip to state for Barboza in this event.

In the National Electric

Code Testing event, Christian Flores placed first and Jose Flores placed second.

In the Electrical Exhibit competition, MPHS qualified 10 students on three different teams for state and swept the category. 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.

Placing first was the team of Jorge Palacios, Pina, Enrique Ramos, and Erick Salazar. The team of Alexis Bello, Jaime Pena, and Gabriel Perez placed second. And taking third was the team of Javier Bello, Jr., David Garcia, and Uzziel Perez.

"These students put in a lot of extra time and worked very hard to get ready for area competition and I am thrilled that so many are going to State," Electrical Technology instructor and SkillsUSA Advisor Tim Davis said. "They are now focusing 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."

Four students reach Nationals in Speech, Debate competition

By GRACE WHITTEN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

It's been a successful year for the high school Speech and Debate team as they keep bringing home medals.

In competition against 18 other East Texas teams, four students of the team have advanced to the national tournament while two others are alternates. The National Qualifying tournament was held last month on the campus of the University of Texas at Tyler.

In Cross-Examination Debate, the team of junior Taryn Thurman and sophomore Connelly Cowan earned a spot to nationals. It will be their second trip to the national tournament.

In 2019, the team of Cowan and Thurman finished in the top 58 out of 180 teams at Nationals. Thurman is the daughter of Tris and Stephanie Thurman and Cowan is the daughter of Collin and Kelly Cowan.

In Lincoln Douglas debate, junior Reid Pinckard was among the top three out of 35 entries and will make his second appearance at the national tournament. In 2019, Pinckard competed in extemporaneous speaking at Nationals. He is the son of Ritchie and Amanda Pinckard.

Also in Congressional Debate, senior Caroline Rose was one of the top six speakers in the House out of 62 entries. This marks her first time to reach the national level. Rose is the daughter of Kevin and Tracie Rose.

Cowan and Pinckard qualified for the national tournament in multiple events. Cowan also placed 1st in Congressional Debate in the Senate and placed 2nd in International Extemporaneous Speaking. Pinckard placed 2nd in U.S. Extemporaneous Speaking. At the national level, students are only allowed to compete in one event because of the number of competitors.

Two team members earned alternate spots and may get to compete if a qual-

See Speech Pg. 11



Cowan and Thurman



Pinckard

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ifier cannot attend. The team of junior Ryan Sharp and sophomore Taylor Hubbs are alternates in CX debate and extemporaneous speaking.

“Every year we keep getting better,” said MPHS Speech and Debate Coach, Cody Morris. “These students really put in the work this year and dominated. Once again, we are taking four students to Nationals.

“As a team, we finished tied for 2nd in overall sweepstakes. With eighteen of the most competitive schools in our region in attendance, we tied with All Saints Episcopal, a private school in Tyler. I am very proud to coach these students and I cannot wait to watch them compete on the national stage.”

The NSDA National tournament will be held June 14-19, 2020 in Albuquerque, NM.



Rose

Cowan, Pinckard share some thoughts about Speech, Debate

By GRACE WHITTEN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Speech and Debate members Connelly Cowan and Reid Pinckard gave an interview about how their year is going.

Cowan, a sophomore, serves as president of the team and Pinckard is a junior. Starting in junior high, this is Cowan's fourth year of competing and the third for Pinckard.

Q: What is your preferred event?

Cowan: “My favorite event is Policy Debate where two people debate two others about proposed policy reform. This year we debate about reducing arms sales from the United States. It's my favorite because it includes a lot of complex discussion and research that you wouldn't get anywhere.”

Pinckard: “If I had to choose, it would be Lincoln-Douglas (LD) debate. It gives me a chance to be passionate and use my voice for what I share that passion with. It's a one-on-one debate where you have to decide which debater has a more moral plan.”

Q: What do you believe is the hardest event in Debate?

Cowan: “Everyone will probably tell you that their event is the hardest, but I think policy debate is the hardest because it re-

quires a lot of preparation and knowledge.”

Q: What make a good debater in your opinion?

Cowan: “To me, it's all about work ethic. No matter your debate skill, if you don't work, you won't go as far.”

Pinckard: “Someone that has a healthy passion for speaking their truth. You also have to be able to work and prep for any situation. Those two things combined is all that you need, and a little bit of intelligence.”

Q: What advice would you give someone that wants to do debate?

Pinckard: “Be ready to work and for some tough losses. Debate is all about education and if that means losing, that's OK. You have to keep working to better yourself as a person and a competitor.”

Q: Can you tell us about your recent trip to Boston?

Cowan: “It was an incredible experience! We got to spend an entire day sightseeing around Boston before spending two days competing. Taryn and I also brought home a winning record which was our goal!”

Cowan, Taryn Thurman and Caroline Rose attended the Harvard National Forensics Tournament held in Boston.



Top row from left: TAFE Advisor Aimee Sweeden, Jackelyn Puente, Ana Ramirez, Keyla Plancarte, Polyana Olvera, Erin Mickens, Lizbeth Moreno and Khia Shaw. Bottom row from left: Mirka Soto, Paulina Baez, Christina Gordon, Marya Martinez, Melisa Dominguez, Daniela Robles, Milagros Sanchez, Sophy Turner and Evelyn DeSantiago.

Ready, Set, Teach gives students hands-on classroom experience

By ODALYS ADAME
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The high school offers an array of programs that help students with choosing their careers. Ready, Set, Teach in particular is an internship-based program that provides students who are interested in teaching an opportunity to have hands on experience.

"We help out at any event we can such as Hooves and Halos, the Handicapable Rodeo, Special Olympics, Furr Ever Friends, Lowe's distribution center with their family fun day, any childcare event we are able to attend, the Christmas Parade and so much more," RST member Evelyn Santiago said.

Aside from participating in various events, their main goal is to prepare in a career in education. The students go to the local elementary schools to help the teacher's grade and learn more about childcare.

However, working with children is not an easy task.

"A difficult thing I have experienced while working with students is not knowing how to react in difficult situations. Another thing



Christina Gordon helps students.

See RST, Pg. 13

RST from Page 12

that I have found difficult is leaving the class and not being able to spend more time with the students,” RST member Keyla Plancarte said

Regardless of the difficult situations, many RST members have fun doing what they love most.

“To me it hasn’t been difficult to get adjusted and I enjoy being around the students and seeing them improve. It can be difficult at times but it is definitely worth it at the end of the day,” RST member Paulina Baez said.

Students says RST has helped prepare them for the future.

“It has given me first-hand experience in the classroom. It has also given me knowledge and skills that I will need as a future educator,” DeSantiago said.

Added Baez, “the class is now dual credit so you get to learn new things that will benefit me when I am a teacher.”

Along with helping the students, the RST members are learning as well.

“A lesson I have learned is to have fun with the students. Younger students are very active so you have to keep them busy while teaching,” Plancarte said. “Students learn in different ways and as a educator, we have to be able to accommodate our lessons.”

RST also competes in various competitions and display their work from throughout the

Culinary students advance to state

Culinary Arts students recently competed at the SkillsUSA District 5 contest in Waco in the Commercial Baking Job Exhibit and the hands-on Baking and Cooking categories.

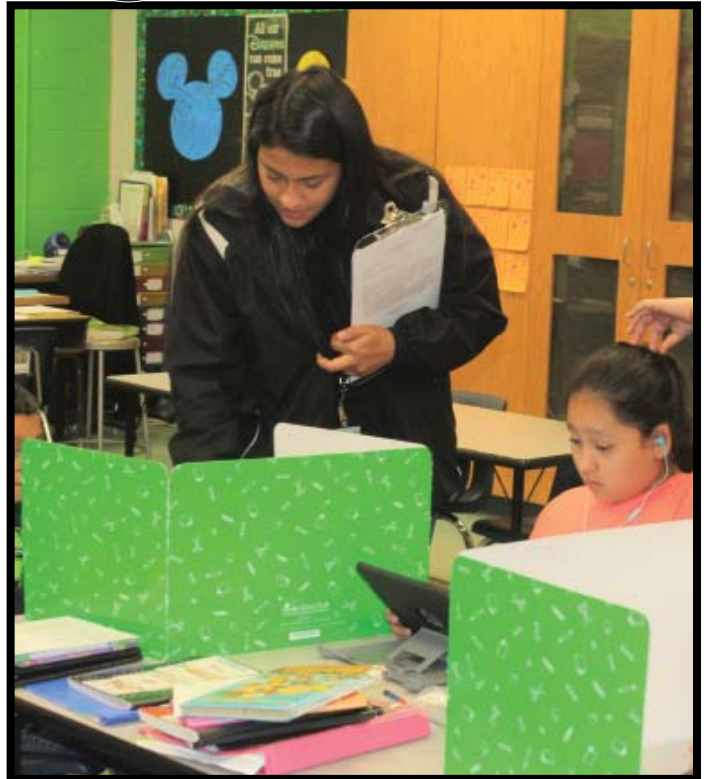
Four students will move on to the State competition.

The team of seniors Hailey Benyshek and Kenia Cuellar placed 1st for their 3-5 tier cake. Senior Isai Baltazar placed 1st with his sour dough bread and Mexican Sweet Bread. And junior Cecilia Garcia also placed 1st for her 3-5 tier cake.

Placing 2nd but not advancing to state was junior Maria Carrillo for her 1-3 tier cake.

Additional competitors included Matt Braudaway, Jose Chavez, Andrea Medina, and Rebekah Garrett.

Baltazar, Benyshek, Cuellar, and Garcia will compete at the SkillsUSA state competition in April in Corpus Christi. The Culinary Arts classes are taught by Chef Kathleen Anker.



RST student Lisbeth Moreno gets hands-on teaching experience.

year. The students involved have had many different experiences and, with continuous persistence and patience, are sure to become great educators.



From left are Baltazar, Garcia, Cuellar and Benyshek.

Boys soccer kicking the competition

By MIGUEL ARRELLANO
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The boys' soccer team have started with a great season as they look to win another district title.

We asked soccer player Joseph Gongora some questions about the Tigers as they get ready for another playoff run.

"So far this year we are undefeated in district. We hope to continue this and be undefeated districts champ for the 4th year in a row," Gongora said.

If soccer can continue this streak, it will be another great accomplishment. Like any team, there are still bound to be challenges.

Joseph explains two of the challenges they face as a team.

"A big challenge is staying consistent between games," Joseph said.

"We'll win one game and get too comfortable. Building bad habits is a big challenge, so every practice we go out focused on little details and build good habits."

Improving oneself is clearly important for those who play soccer.

Which begs the question what make a great soccer player.

"A great soccer player knows what role he plays on his team. People believe that a great soccer player is what you do with ball, but in reality, what you do without the ball says how much you really know about the game," Joseph said.

"A great soccer player will come out and work every single day focused on improving his teammates and himself."

Being a great soccer player is much deeper than I think most people thought. They clearly care a lot for this



The Tigers celebrate following a big win.



Gongora is one of the key players on the team.

sport than you would think.

After that, their motivation must run deep.

"The coaching staff is always a big motivation. They push every day and have our minds focused on the season," Joseph said.

"Also the seniors that do what is asked of them are big example for the underclassmen."

They show hard work and dedication in their games. Go and show some love for our Tigers.

Sharp advances to state in swimming

By JOSE REYES
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The high school swim team had a great showing at the regional meet with junior Ryan Sharp turning in a great performance.

Sharp advanced to state in two different events --- the 100-meter fly and the 100-meter backstroke.

Sharp took second in both events to advance to state.

Here are the results from the Regional Swim Meet:

Relays:

200 Medley Relay Girls- 4th place: Isabella Greco, Hannah Harvill, MaKayla Houchin, Reese Ball

200 Medley Relay Boys- 4th place: Ty Hearn, Jacob Elliott, Ryan Sharp, Sam Sloan

200 Free Relay Girls- 6th place: Isabella Greco, Hannah Harvill, MaKayla Houchin, Reese Ball

200 Free Relay Boys- 6th place: Ty Hearn, Jacob Elliott, Sam Sloan, Jack Welborn

400 Free Relay Boys- 7th place: Jack Welborn, Elijah Rider, Peyton Hein, Caleb Ball

Individuals:

50 Free- 4th place: Ty Hearn

100 Fly Girls- 9th place: MaKayla Houchin

100 Free Girls- 11th place Isabella Greco and 15th place Hannah Harvill

100 Back Girls- 12th place Isabella Greco and 14th place Reese Ball

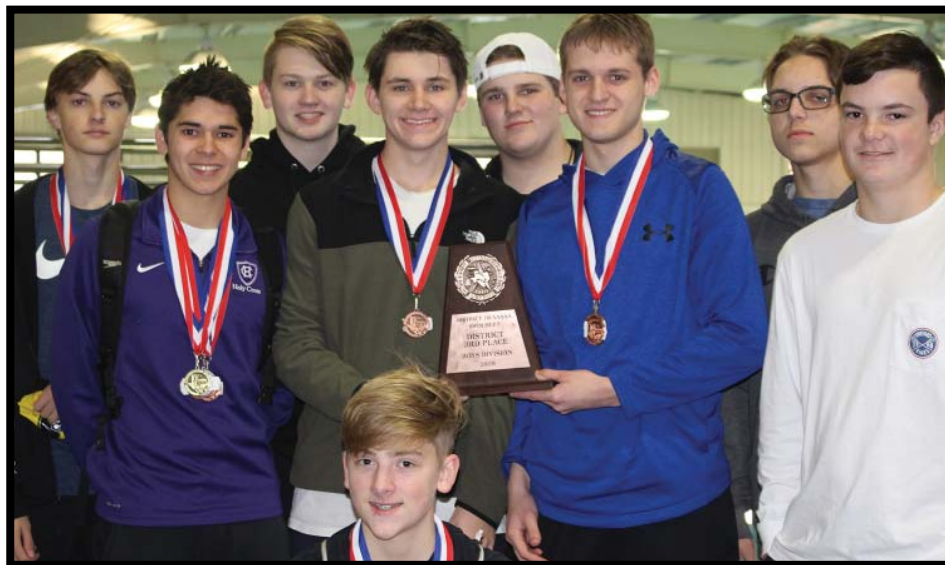
100 Breast Girls- 13th place MaKayla Houchin and 16th place Hannah Harvill

Coach Kristi Houchin said that almost every swimmer dropped their times individually or as a group in a relay event.

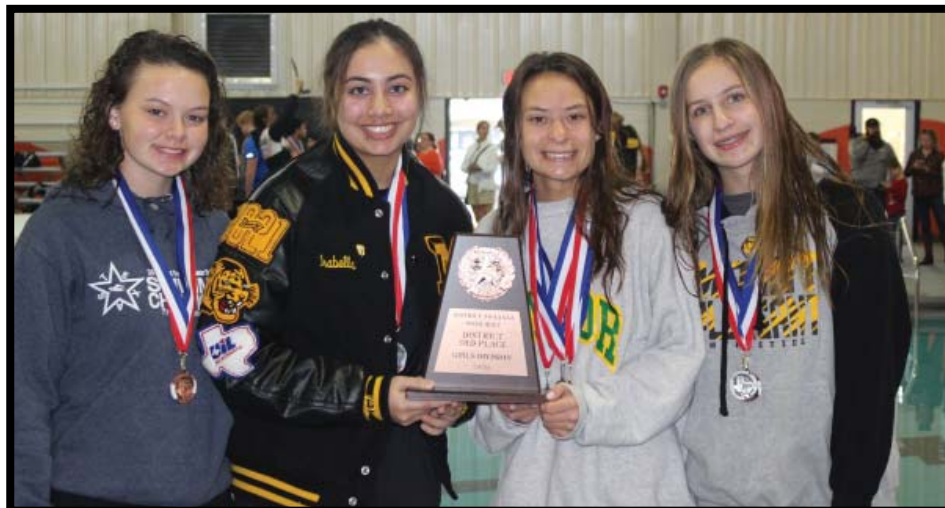
At district, both the boys and girls teams placed third.



Sharp on top of the medal stand,



Boys swim team members are Elijah Rider in front. Middle row from left are Ryan Sharp, Caleb Ball, Ty Hearn and Sam Sloan. Back row from left are Jacob Elliott, Peyton Hein, Sam Brown and Jack Welborn.



Girls swim team members from left are Hannah Harvill, Isabella Greco, MaKayla Houchin and Reese Ball.

Two Lady Tiger lifters reach state

By DONALD WOODS

The Lady Tigers received a nice surprise when they arrived at the Regional Meet in Pine Tree, finding out junior Joshlyn Paloblanco had moved up in the rankings from 15th to 12th, allowing her to compete. A total of 7 Lady Tigers competing.

Paloblanco did not disappoint, finishing the day in 11th place with a personal best of 410 pounds.

Senior Sophy Turner completed her 2 year career also finished 11th in the 165 class, setting a personal record of 605 pounds, and qualifying for Regional in back-to-back years.

Freshman Alexandra Martinez was able to complete her rookie season ranked 8th in the 123 class, setting a personal best of 495 pounds and preparing her for what looks to be a feisty future.

Junior Maira Rocha completed her 2nd year ranked 4th in the 114 class, setting a personal record of 595 pounds, and just missing out on the State Meet by 25 pounds.

Junior Jalissa Alvarez completed her 2nd year ranked 4th in the 165 class, and also setting a personal record of 745 pounds.

Junior Ashlyn Brooks was



Front row from left are Jaimes, Alvarez, Brooks and Rocha. Back row from left are Sanchez, Turner and Paloblanco.

the surprise of the day for the Lady Tigers. Brooks completed her 2nd year ranked 2nd in the 148 class, setting a personal record of 710 pounds, qualifying for Regionals 2 straight years, and moving on to the State Meet for the 1st time!

Freshman Nayeli Jaimes was another surprise for the Lady Tigers. The surprise about Jaimes was not her moving on to the State meet, it was how she would do it.

Down to her last lift of the day, Jaimes needed to get her last lift in order to attain the automatic State qualifying

total of 825 pounds. With one last effort, and a smooth finish, Jaimes completed the task and sealed the mark of 825 pounds, good for a 3rd place finish but automatic qualifying.

The hard work and determination of our Lady Tigers proved evident in their new personal records, their 4 medals and their two State qualifiers.

Brooks and Jaimes will be competing in Waco at the 5A State championships on March 20-21st. Pray for them to stay healthy and to do their best.

Tigers come up just short at regionals

By DONALD WOODS

Once again, another year brought multiple Tigers to the Regional Meet and the brink of greatness, but getting over that hurdle proved too much once again.

Sophomore Elias Elizondo came into the meet in the 12th position. With hard work and determination, Elizondo moved up

to spots to finish in the top 10 in the 198 class.

Junior Zane Phillips came into the meet in the 5th position. Unfortunately, Phillips found himself struggling with his opening squat weight, and Bombed Out of the competition.

Sophomore David Chavez was the surprise of the day, finishing 5th in the 114 class. Chavez

showed great resolve and never backed away from the competition.

Senior George Lias made it to the Regional meet for the 2nd straight year. In 2019, Lias finished 5th overall missing the State meet.

This year, 2020, Lias came into the Regional Meet ranked 1.

See Regionals, Pg. 17

Softball team hopes to win district

By MIGUEL ARRELLANO
Tigertalk Staff Writer

This year's softball team has high hopes as they start getting ready for district play.

Senior Kenzi Rolf answered some questions about the team and its season.

What should we expect from the teams' performance this year?

"To compete for the district championship and go into the play-offs with hopes of going far," Kenzi said.

How does the team get ready before a game? In addition, is there any pressure before a game?

"Before a game we always pray led by me, and then we break out. There is not always pressure...we try and stay calm and focused," Kenzi said.

What has the team done to improve over time?

"We played a lot of scrimmages and have been to three tournaments and we are ready for the season to



Breasia Hargrave delivers a pitch.

start," Kenzi said.

Experience goes a long way, they have to practice and practice to get where they are now. Since they work so hard, the students, should go out and support them.

How important is student support during games?

Kenzi said "student support

is really important to games, because when we are down it hypes the game up and makes the team hype and we tend to pick up our work and start dang good."

So go and support our own high school softball team to show and give them spirit during their games.

Regionals from Page 16

Although moving up to a 3rd place finish from his 5th place in 2019, Lias once again missed the State meet.

Although the goal of every lifter is to ultimately get to the State meet, we cannot lose sight of their achievements throughout the course of the season, as well as their careers. Lias has been a Tiger lifter for 3 years and has always given great effort.

Although he did not make the State meet, I am proud of his work and dedication.

As for the other 3, Phillips, Elizondo and Chavez – there is always next year!



From left are Chavez, Lias and Elizondo.

Tigers gearing up for district play

By GRACE WHITTEN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

With district games now underway, the varsity baseball team has been working hard to prepare for the 2020 season.

Assistant Coach Cody Russell believes “the biggest challenge for this season is to not get complacent,” although the team may be good, he does not “want to be satisfied with just being good.”

He then goes on to explain that the goal for this season is “making the playoffs and making a deep run... and putting Mount Pleasant Baseball back on the map.”

Multiple players on the team have made personal goals for the season. Three-year varsity starter Brock Cooper states his goal is “to make 1st team all-district again.”

When a player receives a district award such as Cooper did, it is considered a huge honor. To make first team all-district means the player is the best at his position in the district, an award that takes hard effort and commitment to be considered for.

Other players including senior catcher Peter Noah has set his personal goal for the season, to “receive the district MVP award.” Noah won District Offensive MVP for the 2019 season and is setting the bar higher for himself this year.

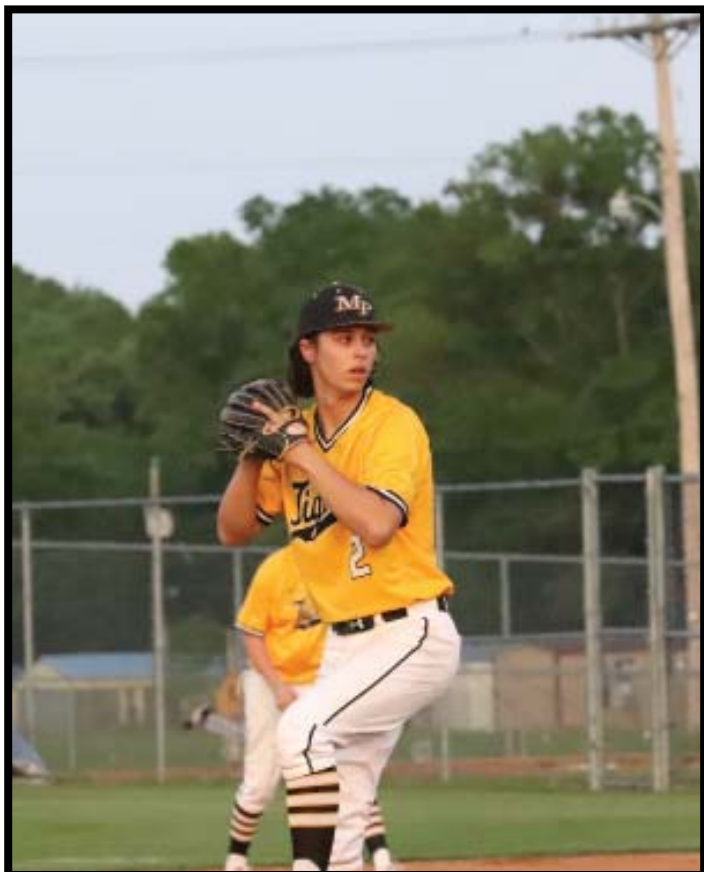
Junior second baseman Baker Peterson has expressed his goal for the season, “to get better every day and win district.” Peterson is heading to his second year on the varsity team with his head held high and with state on his mind.

With a number of large competitors in our district, Tiger Baseball is being forced to focus within themselves if they desire to secure a spot in the playoffs. With the team goal being to compete at the state level, Brock Cooper believes the team will need to improve on “playing as a team and not worrying about ourselves”.

A difficult opponent for the team for the 2020 season is going to be Texas High. “A lot of other teams have lost a number of players, but Texas High hasn’t”, Baker Peterson said.

As for the Tigers, the adjustment will be for the 2020 season. The varsity team has brought “everyone back from last year’s team. Russell states, “we return 7 seniors and 2 juniors who were all starters.”

The varsity team asks Mount Pleasant to come support during this upcoming season by attending games as you can. Go Tigers!



Noah Bristow



Peter Noah

Girls soccer headed to playoffs

By KIMBERLEY GALVAN

Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Lady Tigers soccer team is in the midst of wrapping up their district season and have the playoffs on their mind.

With just one game remaining, the Lady Tigers sit in first place in district.

Faith Logan took the time to give their opinion on a variety of questions.

What has your team accomplished this season?

"We are first in district and had a 12-game winning streak," Faith said.

What motivates the team to reach the top?

"Many of the girls have played with each other since they were little and are motivated to grow with our sisters," Faith said.

What are some challenges the team has?

"One of our teams' biggest challenge now is that we have many of players out now due to injuries and sickness," Faith said.

What makes a great soccer player?

"The three qualities needed to be a great soccer player are being a hard worker, being someone who can hyper focus, and being able to listen to guidance from others," Faith said.



The Lady Tigers celebrate a goal.



Isabel Cruz pushes the ball up.

Lady Tigers basketball team makes playoffs

It was a great season for the Lady Tigers basketball team.

With a lot of young players on the team mixed in with a strong group of seniors, the Lady Tigers were able to advance to the playoffs this season.

The Lady Tigers defeated Whitehouse in the first round of the playoffs before coming up just short against state-ranked Red Oak in the area round.

The team graduated four seniors who were key contributors to the program. They are Kenya Bates, Taryanna McNary, Dannielle Merriman and Zareyah Webster.



Paris Beard



Danielle Merriman

Three art students advance to state

Thirty art students entered 51 pieces at the Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) recently held. Pic

Three art students will move on to the state competition in San Marcos this April. Art pieces were scored as a 4 (Excellent), a 3 (Strong), a 2 (Developing), or a 1 (Emerging).

Forty of the MPHS entries earned the max score of 4 and the remaining eleven earned 3's. In order to advance to state, the piece must first earn a rating of a 4. All of the 4's in a particular division are then judged a second time and state advancements are awarded based on an allotment, roughly 10% in each division.

Earning scores of 4 (Excellent) and moving on to state are seniors Allyson Swafford and Paola Ventura in division 4 along with junior ZZ Lee in division 3.

Also earning scores of 4 (Excellent) are Saul Alvarado, Christopher Bello, Rosario Bello, Camille Cantu, Jose Chavez, Mya Clark, Parker Colley, Shelby Courreges, Tykerries Farrier, Gaven Fife, Allie Fincher, Rafael Garcia, Chloe Garrett, Mariana Gonzalez, Faith Hampton, Alexandra Ibanez, Alison Majors, Llu-



Pictured above are Allyson Swafford and Paola Ventura, who qualified for state. Also qualifying for state is ZZ Lee, at right.



See Art, Pg. 21





Art from Page 20

via Melendez, Anaeli Navarro, Luiz Olvera, Melody Reyes, Yessenia Serna, Silvia Sustaita, and Kurion Walker.

Earning scores of 3 (Strong) are C. Bello, Colley, Jose Lopez, Danielle Merriman, Melendez, Navarro, Olvera, Swafford, Walker, and De'asia Woodson.

"I would like to congratulate the MPHS Art students for their efforts and rewards in receiving 40 medals at the Regional VASE competition," said MPHS Art teacher, Laura Kirkland. "I am happy to say MP will be taking 3 of these hard-working students to state! I am very proud of how our students did and how well they represented MPHS. We would like to thank Big Tex trailers for sponsoring our students for this Regional event."





Pictured above are band members who qualified for state.

Band members advance to state

By ODALYS ADAME
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Mount Pleasant band students have recently competed in UIL Region IV Solo & Ensemble for a chance to go to state. Fifty-one students received first divisions on their prepared pieces and will advance to compete in State Solo & Ensemble.

The first divisions were not earned without hard work. To demonstrate their mastery of dynamics and overall music effectively, the groups and soloists had to practice after school and further attend to the smallest of details.

“One of the hardest parts was trying to get everyone in the group on the same page. When someone’s part lacked something, we all had to work on that specific part to try and sound better.” Leslie Mayo, one of the hardworking players who earned a first division, said. The continuous practice and effort seemed to work out for the majority, as this year is the largest group the band has taken to state.

Qualifying for state as part of an ensemble are Chris Araiza, Tommy Arredondo, Brian Ayala, Manoa Bagsic, Isai Baltazar, Jayden Beckham, Jordi Bello, Hannah Bowles, Madison Carpenter, Ezekiel Castenada, Maiko Estrada, Alvin Gonzalez, Jimmy Gonzalez, Anna Harris, Nia Jackson, Juan Juarez, Isaiah Martinez, Pablo Mata, Leslie Mayo, Jair Moreno, Alejandro Nava, David Nava, Nayeli Palacios, Neida Perez, Pedro Portillo, Angel Quistian, Abril Ramirez, Brian Ramirez, Lizette Ramirez, Enrique Ramos, Holly Reese, Eli Rider, Jordan Rivas, John Rodriquez, Eric Salazar, Nick Segovia, Juan Serna, Brock Shavers, Jesus Vazquez, Jerrius Vickers, Hunter Williams, Donovan Young, and Pedro Zuniga.

A handful of diligent students decided to take it even further with their music and decided to compete as a soloist instead of as an ensemble.

Qualifying for state as a soloist are Manoa Bagsic, Madison Carpenter, Nia Jackson, and Isaiah Martinez.

Seven in choir earn trip to state contest

Seventeen choir members competed at the Regional UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest with seven soloists have advanced to the State contest. To qualify for the state solo and ensemble contest, a student must score a “1” (the top score) on a Class 1 solo, the most difficult to memorize and perform.

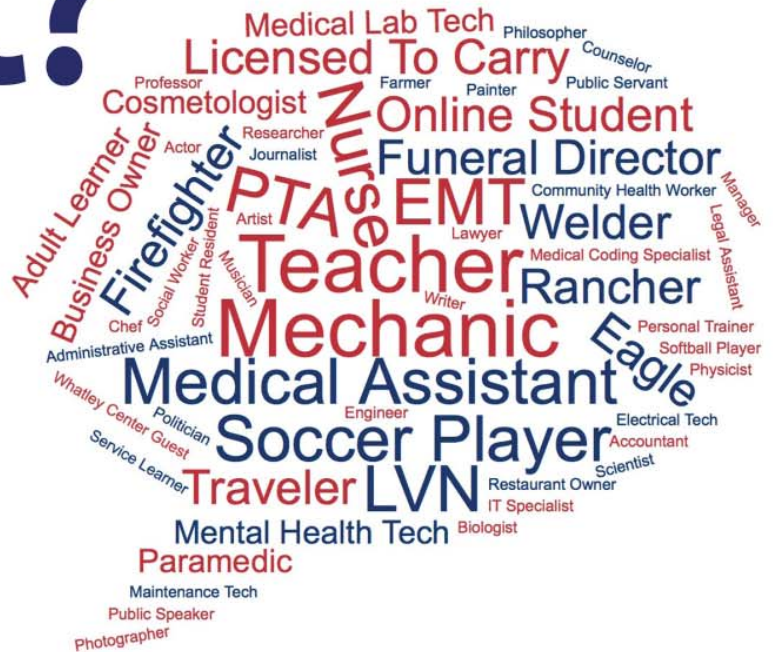
State solo qualifiers include Migel Guerrero, Savannah Mack, Sakinah Mason, Rachell Moreno, Cristina Olvera, Abril Ramirez, and Lili Wu.

The state contest will be held the first week of June in Austin and will involve around 25,000 vocal, band, and orchestra contestants from across Texas. The choir is directed by Nancy Vines with accompaniment provided by Deanna Warren.



Front row from left: Abril Ramirez, Migel Guerrero and Cristina Olvera. Back row from left are Sakinah Mason, Savannah Mack, Rachell Moreno and Lili Wu.

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Tiger Roar

What are your plans for Spring Break?

Tiger Roar page by Staff Writers Gavin Rider and Peyton Hein



"Watching TV"
-- Makayla Kirkwood, 11



"Sleeping"
-- Jordan Young, 11



"Going to the range"
-- David Torres, 10



"Going to Dallas"
--- Mya Clark, 11



"Watching Code Geass"
-- Andrew Avila, 9



"Going to Dallas"
-- Merlin Cardona, 9



"Helping a friend"
-- Nicholas Segovia, 11



"Work and chill with friends"
-- Emily Bird, 12



"Practice soccer"
--- Colton Majors, 12



"Working at Walmart"
--- Noah Dumlao, 11



"Mountains or the beach"
--- Mrs. Karen Russell



"Whatever my wife says"
--- Mr. Larry Russell