

Tigertalk

Inside:

Head of the Class



**Prom Royalty
Will Hills &
Mackenzie Lide**



**Tiger Dolls
Spring Show**



**Valedictorian Connelly Cowan
Salutatorian Taylor Hubbs**

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NHS 2022-2023 Officers

The Mount Pleasant High School chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) has selected its officers for the 2022-2023 school year. Leading NHS are President Camdon Johnson, Vice President Anthony Orellana, Secretary Natalie Crockett, Treasurer Perla Guzman, Parliamentarian Madison Carpenter, and Historian Camila Serrano.

Tigertalk

NEWS STAFF

Staff Writers, Photographers, Designers: Odalys Adame, Michelle Calderon, Edgar Mayo, Miller McCumbry, Audrie Mendoza, Isaiah Rodarte, Nathali Rojas and Caleb Whitten.

Advisor: John Whitten

Special Contributor: Kelly Cowan

The Tigertalk is published five-six times a year by the newspaper and journalism classes of MPHS. Address is P.O. Box 1117, Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455. Letters to the editor are encouraged but must be signed and the staff reserved the right to edit because of space. Submit all letters to Mr. Whitten.

Crouch chosen Teacher of the Year

By CALEB WHITTEN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

AP World History/World History Teacher Scott Crouch was chosen as the 2021-2022 High School Teacher of the Year by his fellow employees.

Born in Howell, Mich., Crouch attended Campbell University and obtained a bachelor's degree in Government.

When asked on what he likes most about teaching at Mount Pleasant High School, Crouch said "the light-bulb moment when a student gets it, and the support from my fellow teachers."

Crouch said what he like most about his job, he said "seeing the good grade smile or reaction."

Crouch was "surprised and grateful" to receive this honor from his peers.

When asked about the biggest challenge he has faced this year, Crouch said "caring for our dog, after she had a plate put in her leg after it be-



ing broken".

Crouchsaid the best thing about his job this year was "the construction of the new school building that put the History Department closer to the other academic classes and has led to more colleague interaction."

Crouch and his wife Jana have two grown sons and two granddaughters.

Palomares named Employee of the Year

By AUDREY MENDOZA
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Staff members recently chose receptionist Anavel Palomares as the school's employee of the year. Palomares was born in Mount Pleasant and has been working for as a receptionist for 13 years. She is married to Manuel Palomares and has three children, Michael who is 18, Gabriel who is 12, and Isabelle who is 11/2.

What do you like most about working at MPHS?

Palomares said, "What I like most about working here at MPHS is that I get to see and talk to everyone that comes in, answer all phone calls and getting to see and talk to former students when coming up to get and school records."



job?

"What I like best about my job is the communication with students

See Palomares, Pg. 10

Tigertalk Pg. 3

Cowan is 2022 valedictorian

By ODALYS ADAME

Tigertalk Editor

Perhaps one of the hardest achievements in high school is to be named valedictorian. Being named valedictorian is not just given but earned after years of hard work and determination.

As such, Tigertalk would like to extend congratulations to the Class of 2022's Valedictorian, Connelly Cowan.

Connelly is the daughter of Collin and Kelly Cowan and has been an active figure in her class. She has been a part of Speech and Debate for six years and has served as president for one year and captain for two. In NHS, she has participated in volunteer work including Adopt-A-Highway and the Salvation Army.

"Being named valedictorian was one of the first goals I ever set for myself and to achieve it is very special to me. It is an affirmation of the work I have put in over the past four years," Cowan said.

Of the accomplishments she has earned, one of them includes being back-to-back state champion in Informative Extemporaneous speaking. She has also been runner up in Policy Debate and is a National Merit Commended Scholar.

"I've been fortunate to have a lot of strong women in my life from valedictorians before me to the women who raised me," Cowan said. "I strive to demonstrate the work ethic and perseverance of my grandmothers and I hope to someday embody the resilience and kindness of my mom."

Aside from the academic achievements she has earned, Cowan is also known for a personal project she started 10 years ago when she was only 7 years old. The project was an annual school supply drive that provided for students in remote areas of Guatemala.

The project, Connelly's Classroom, was recognized by the MPHS Daughters of the American Revolution which named her as the DAR's Good Citizen.

"My parents always encouraged my love of learning. They instilled in me the value of an education, which has motivated me to dedicate myself to my studies," Cowan said.

Cowan's favorite class has been AP Chemistry with Mr. Trickey as it was challenging but interesting.

Similarly, the hardest class she has taken has been Physics with Mr. Russell which applied the hardest parts of Algebra and Calculus.



Cowan plans to attend Georgetown.

"I'm really glad I took them, Mr. Trickey and Mr. Russell are awesome," Cowan said.

Throughout high school, Cowan has earned Academic Blanket Awards for Pre-AP English I, Pre-AP Chemistry and Dual Credit Physics.

She is also 2021 Texas State Board of Education Student Hero and has recently qualified for nationals with FBLA in Political Science.

"I was very hard on myself as an underclassman. I still am sometimes, but I've learned to extend myself more grace, which I think is a very important lesson," Cowan said.

While keeping up with debate and studies, Cowan still finds time to enjoy her senior year.

She enjoys collecting vinyl's, talking about Harry Styles and drinking coffee at the downtown staple, Jo's. Her favorite memories include traveling with debate and exploring the different parts of Texas.

See Cowan, Pg. 5

Hubbs is 2022 salutatorian

By MICHELLE CALDERON
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Taylor Hubbs was named the salutatorian for the MPHS Class of 2022. Hubbs is the daughter of Angelia Morris and Brandon Hubbs.

“My role model has always been my mom,” Hubbs said. “As a home health nurse, she always put us and her patients first. She has always seemed so driven, confident, determined, so she’s always pushed me to do my very best.”

Hubbs has been very active throughout high school participating in UIL Speech and Debate, literary criticism, and current events.

Additionally, she has served as National Honor Society Historian, President of Future Business Leaders of America, President of the Speech and Debate Club and Vice President of Student Council.

She has qualified for Nationals in both Debate and FBLA.

Hubbs has put in a lot of work both in and outside the classroom to reach this point.

“To me, becoming salutatorian is a bit of a relief,” Hubbs said. “It means that all the work I’ve put it has been worth it.”

Of all the classes she has taken, Hubbs found Physics with Mr. Russell and Chemistry II with Mr. Trickey the most difficult. Her favorite class was Pre-Ap English II with Ms. Priefert.

Some of her favorite memories in high school were made in the overnight trips with the debate team. They would play card and board games, listen to music or just talk.

“The trips were always incredibly fun, although a bit tiring, but I wouldn’t trade those memories for the world,” Hubbs said.

After graduation, Hubbs plans to attend

Cowan from Page 4

Cowan plans to attend Georgetown University to study at the Walsh School of Foreign Science. She intends to go to law school and work in government.

“My advice to underclassmen is to go all



Hubbs plans to attend Texas A&M.

Texas A&M at College Station to major in Biochemistry and possibly go into pre-med for her career.

Regardless of the hardships Hubbs encountered throughout high school, she continued to work hard and it was worth it at the end.

Her advice to underclassmen is to always pace yourself.

“Many students, myself included sometimes, wait too late on homework, projects, big decisions etc... My advice is to work slowly and to be punctual,” Hubbs said.

in,” Cowan said. “Go to events, join organizations, take on leadership, and give your best effort. Your four years will go by fast and you don’t get them back so find activities you love and a commit to them.”

Class of 2022

Honor Graduates



Connelly Cowan
Valetorian



Taylor Hubbs
Salutatorian



Odalys Adame



Delaila Aleman



Aachal Amin



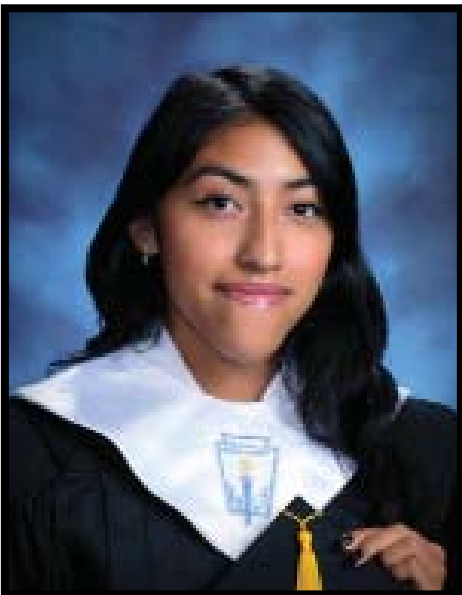
Rossy Banegas



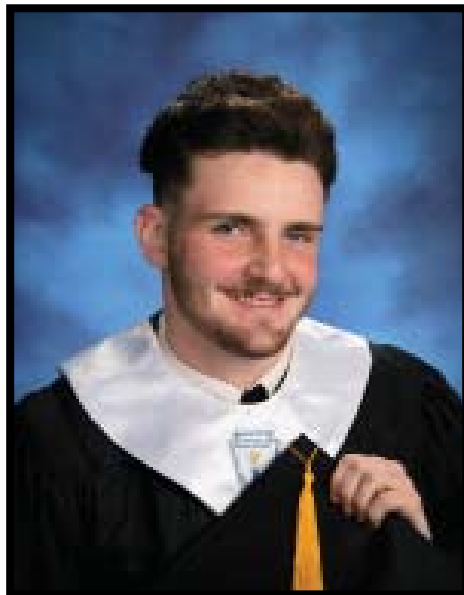
Nevaeh Bardwell



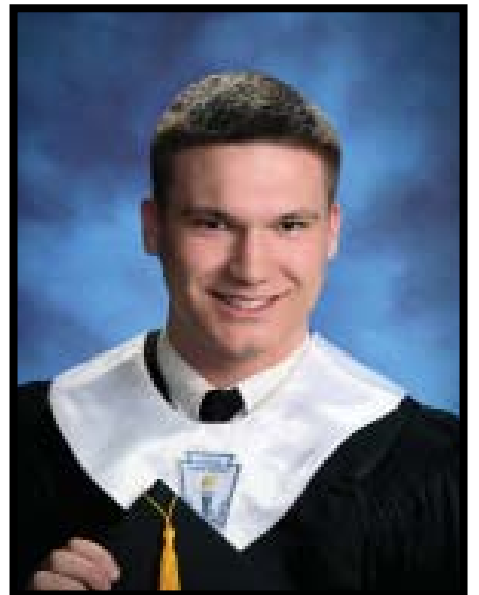
Lainy Blackstone



Michelle Calderon



Nic Chappell



Parker Colley



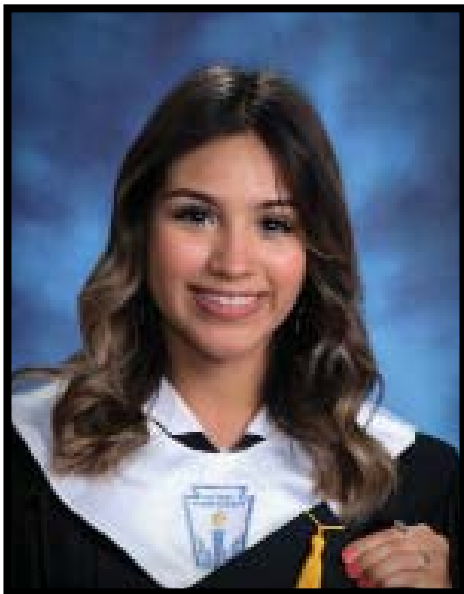
Ruby Ferretiz



Jenny Flores



Karigan Fox



Jackelin Gomez



Hannah Harvill



Mary Kait Heeren



Mackenzie Lide



Leslie Mayo



Katherine Ochoa



Luiz Olvera



Juliana Perez



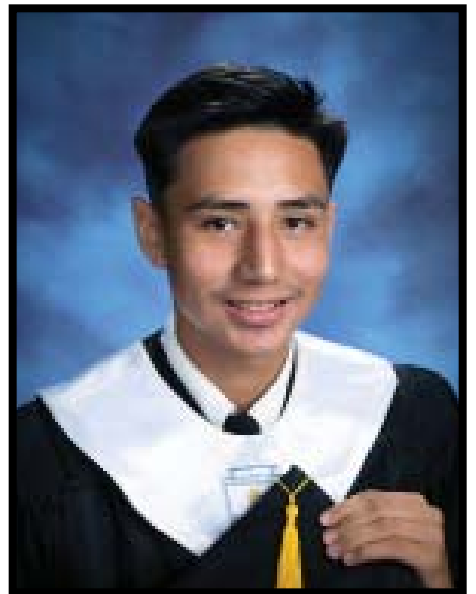
Neida Perez



Abril Ramirez



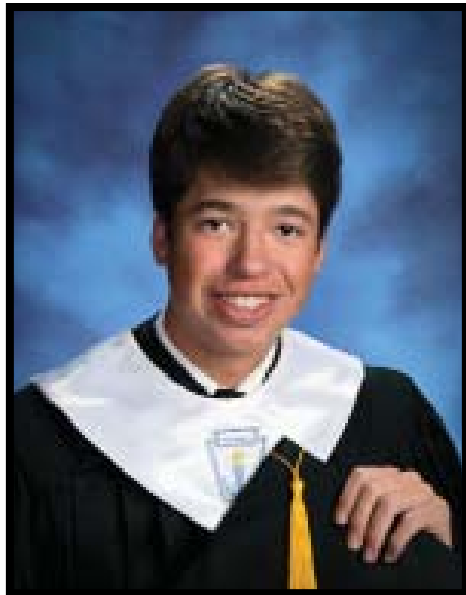
Rachel Rodriguez



Guillermo Sanchez-Medina



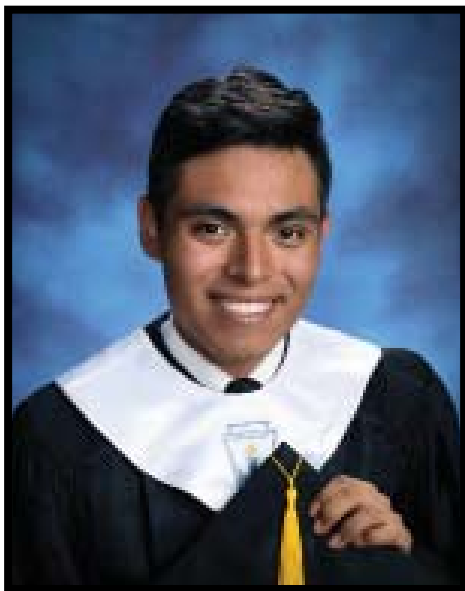
Jonathan Sandate



Brady Sisk



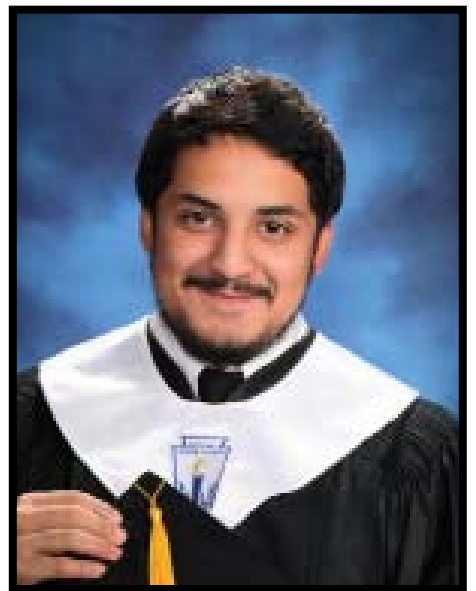
Sam Sloan



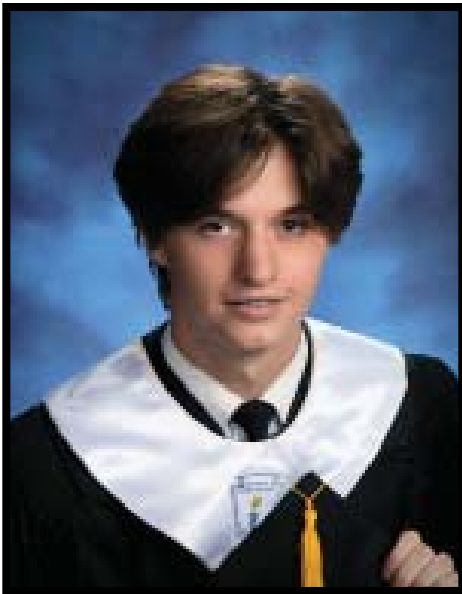
Jonathan Tepetate



Keller Thompson



Esteban Trejo



Matthew Tucker



Micah Tucker



Anna Claire Wall

Palomares from Page 3

and parents getting to see the student every day, my coworkers, and that there is something every day,” Palomares said.

How does it feel to receive the honor from your peers?

Palomares said, “At first I was so shocked that I got the Employee of the Year nomination, but I feel so happy and grateful to everyone that nominated me. I also feel appreciated.”

What has been the biggest chal-

lenge you have faced this year?

“The biggest challenge this year is that I have been faced with is I am now going for a lot of things. Since most of the offices are around me and the new setup has 5/6 different buttons to open doors and also the new phone system,” Palomares said.

What has been the best thing about your job?

Palomares says, “The best thing about my job this year is my new office”.



2022-23 Drum Majors

Drum majors for next school year are from left Assistant Drum Major Manoa Bagsic, Head Drum Major Sebastian Campos and Assistant Drum Major Shpat Zeqaj.



2022-23 Colorguard Officers

Colorguard officers for next school year are front from from left Captain Abby Phelan and Co-Captain Yasenia Paloblanco. Back row from left are Lieutenants Kaira Leija, Addison Heeren, Jocelyn Marroquin, Gracelyn McClendon and Jillian Jetton.

Senior Spotlight: Mary Kait Heeren has excelled in Tigers Dolls, academic groups

By ODALYS ADAME
Tigertalk Editor

Every Tiger Talk issue, one senior who excels in school and outside of it is chosen to be covered. This issue features Mary Kait Heeren, who has dedicated herself to various activities throughout the years.

Heeren has been involved with organizations such as Tiger Dolls, HOSA, FBLA, NHS and UIL Math. She has recently been named a Texas Scholar having more than 70 documented service hours during her high school career.

“My favorite part of senior year has been performing in my fourth and final spring show. I had the opportunity to perform in two additional routines, as well as be a part of the senior presentation, which helped me close my chapter as a Mount Pleasant Tiger Doll in the most rewarding way possible,” Heeren said.

Heeren currently serves as the Tiger Doll captain but also served as Social Sergeant her sophomore year and Junior Lieutenant her junior year.

She has choreographed various routines and has earned the Suzanna Grisby Memorial Scholarship from Tiger Dolls.

“I am grateful to have been able to dance with the Tiger Dolls in my senior class one last time before graduation. I will always cherish the amazing memories made this past year with the team and Mrs. Broach,” Heeren said.

With her responsibilities



Mary Kait Heeren

with Tiger Dolls and other organizations, Heeren has still excelled in her studies and has maintained her position in the top 10% for all four years of high school. This success is from her own diligence but she does note that a few teachers have helped her along the way

“Three teachers that have made the most powerful impact on my high school experience are Mr. Trickey, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Jenkins. These three teachers challenged me by applying what I learned in class to real life scenarios,” Heeren said.

Aside from teachers, her family has also played a pertinent role in her success. From her role as the oldest in her family to ambition, these factors have driven her to always to do her best in anything she involves herself in.

“I am the oldest of four siblings and have always wanted to be a great role model for them,” Heeren said. “I am a competitive person and have strived to be in the Top 5 of our graduating class at the end of my senior year, despite my busy schedule.

Heeren plans to attend Stephen F. Austin University and major in Data Analytics and minor in Dance Team Coaching. She has been accepted into their School of Honors and will be trying out for the SFA Dance Team.

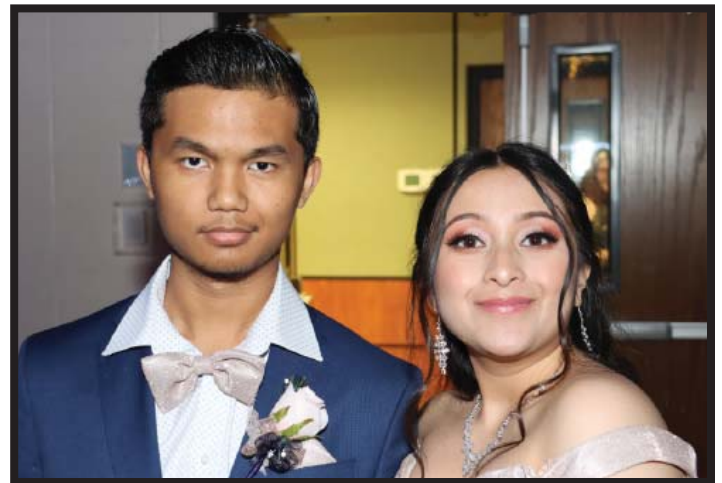
“It has always been one of my personal goals to be the best person I can be and to leave a positive impact on others, so hopefully that is something I’ve accomplished during my years in high school and how I will be remembered by my classmates,” Heeren said.

Prom 2022

A Starry Night



Prom King Will Hills
Prom Queen Mackenzie Lide





Senior Column:

Cherish your time at MPHS

By **MACKENZIE LIDE**
Guest Columnist

I've always been mesmerized by the chaos, lights, and liveliness of big cities. Whether we were in Dallas to visit my brother or driving through Houston for a dance competition, I was fascinated with the idea of one day calling my own shots in such a new and exciting place.

I've never loved living in a small town where everybody knows everybody, and each day feels just like the day before.

I spent so many years longing for a change in scenery, and now that my dream has come true, I can't help but start to miss the little things I love about Mt. Pleasant. Some of my closest friends that I will be walking the stage with in just a few days are the same kids that grew up by my side in elementary school.

I've made countless memories through Friday night football games, Tiger Doll practices after school, late night Whataburger trips, studying at Jo's, and I wouldn't trade those MP moments for the world.

I understand wanting to rush through these four years of high school and finally start doing things on your own, but if I could give the underclassmen one piece of advice it would be to live in the moment.

Cherish walking in the hallway with your best friends, the conversations you have with your favorite teacher, dressing out in black and gold for a game, spending hours getting ready for prom, and every other little thing you experience at



Lide will be attending UT-Austin next fall.
MPHS.

Before you know it, you will be counting down the days where all of these sweet moments come to an end.

Although I am extremely eager and excited to start the next chapter of my life at the University of Texas at Austin, Mount Pleasant will always hold a special place in my heart. MPHS thank you for these unforgettable four years of high school.

Senior Mackenzie out!

Spring Show- California Girls



Seniors announce future plans

By **NATHALI ROJAS**
and **ISAIAH RODARTE**
Tigertalk Staff Writers

With the 2021-2022 school year winding down, seniors are looking toward their future plans for further education or going into the workforce.

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

Jenny Flores – Attend NTCC and get automotive technology associate and intern at the Shelby automotive in Las Vegas.

Cade Woods – Go to NTCC for my basics which will also give me time to figure out what career choice suits me.

Maria Molina – Going to college and get my bachelor degree.

Delaila Aleman – Attend Stephen F. Austin State University and major in biology on a pre dental track.

Leslie Mayo – Attend NTCC then transfer to a four-year university to get Doctorate in Epidemiology.

Matthew Tucker – Attend Texas A&M-College Station in the fall.

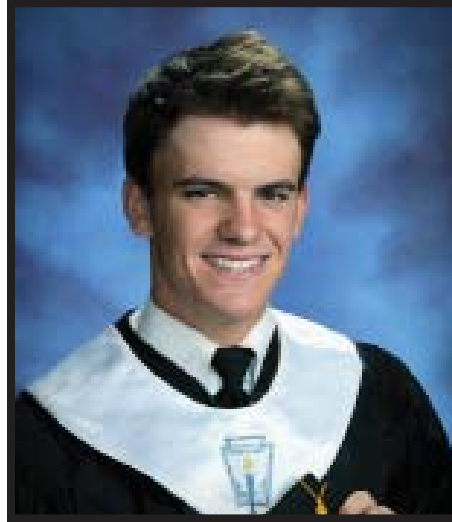
George Burrows – I plan to attend NTCC and get my pre requirements to transfer into Texas A&M biomedical science program.

Anahi Valente – I plan to attend NTCC and transfer to UT Dallas to obtain a master's degree in business marketing.

Evelyn Jasso – Attend NTCC to get basics and transfer to a university to major in counseling.

Edward Wilder – My plan after high school is to play football at Panhandle State University.

Joselyn Reyes – Attend NTCC for two years then



George Burrows



Elizabeth Lockett



Johnny Smith

transfer to UT Tyler to continue in nursing to become a labor and delivery nurse.

Johnny Smith – I plan to get my CDL and go to Kilgore for lineman school.

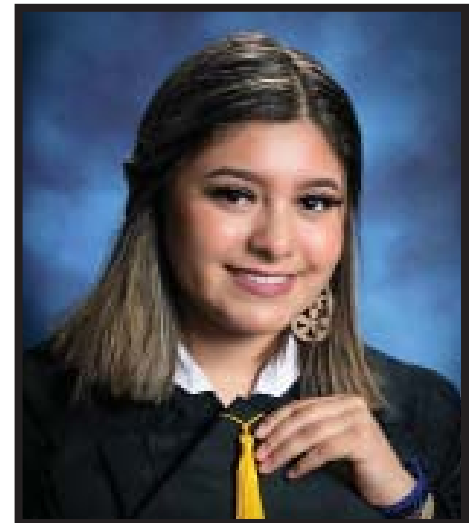
Francisco Equihua – I will be attending the nursing and soccer program at Texas AM in Texarkana.

Brenda Nava – I plan to attend TJC and get my associates on dental hygienist.

Nubia Ortiz – Attend NTCC.

Orlando Garcia – Attend NTCC and transfer to Texas A&M Texarkana for two years to complete bachelors.

Jonathan Tolentino – I plan on attending NTCC.



Brenda Nava

Madison Grundy – I plan to attend NTCC to major in nursing and transfer to a university.

Hadleigh Mays – To attend Southwest Assembly of Gods University Oaks college.

Elizabeth Lockett – To go to college at Texas A&M Texarkana and become a travel nurse.

Gissel Delgado – Go to college and start working.

Alexia De la Rosa – Go to NTCC for my basics than transfer to Texas A&M to study nursing.

Rheagon Lopez – Going to NTCC then transfer to NTCC then transfer to NTCC. See Seniors, Pg. 17

Seniors from Page 16

a university to be a pre K teacher.

Jacob Bristow – I plan to attend NTCC and get a degree in speech pathology.

Paula Gutierrez – Attend NTCC and get a bachelor's degree in nursing and become a medical assistance.

Natalia Plascencia – Work and save money for college.

Estefanie Torres – I plan to go to NTCC for business and then go to a Christian university.

David Perez – going to work and then attend NTCC.

America Ayala – My plans after high school are to go to college and work extra hours to get a car.

Pablo Mata- I plan on majoring in nursing.

Edgar Gonzalez- I plan to go to NTCC and major in biology then transfer to a major university.

Erica Soc- After high school, I plan to go to college and get a degree in nursing.

Jose Olvera-Continue at NTCC and then transfer for a dental hygienist program.

Aachal Amin-To go to the University of Texas in Arlington and get a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Kimberly Robles- Attend college to major in nursing.

Hezly Garcia- I plan to attend Oklahoma State University to pursue a career in veterinary.

Donacia Jones- My plan after high school is to work during the summer and take summer classes at NTCC before I go to Texas A&M in Commerce.

Ariana Vasquez- I plan to attend NTCC to get a degree in business and marketing.

Dominic Mitchell- I plan to work for my uncle's company.

Connor Gillean - I plan to

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Jacob Bristow



Donacia Jones



Estefanie Torres

go to NTCC and get my basics done and then transfer to Texas A&M and major in computer science.

Neida Perez- I will attend NTCC and then transfer to UT Tyler to obtain a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Jennifer Villarreal- I plan to start my own shop as a mechanic.

Sarah Godfrey - I plan on going to school to be an aesthetician.

Kayla Mata- Attend NTCC for basics then transfer to a university for my bachelor's degree.

Jordan Neal- Attend UT at Tyler and major in political science in hopes of pursuing



Edgar Gonzalez

a career in law.

Nubia Ortiz- Go to NTCC.

Silvia Zaldivar- Get my bachelor's degree in nursing at UT Tyler.

Sarahi Gonzales - Attend NTCC to be a medical assistant.

Dolfus Sandoval - Go to college and graduate with my associates in paramedics.

David Chavez - Community college (automotive) and then trade.

Genesis Davila - I plan to move to Fort Worth and go to TCC.

Lindsey Ramirez - I plan on going to NTCC and get-
See Seniors, Pg. 18

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Seniors from Page 17

ting a better paying job and travel the world and have fun.

Evelyn Rodriguez- Attend NTCC then transfer to UT Tyler and eventually become a forensic nurse

Juan Nava- Attend TJC and pursue an associates in dental hygiene.

Amiah Thornton - I will attend the University of Texas at Arlington and will major in nursing.

Lizy Bautista - After high school I'm going to attend NTCC to do my basics there, then I'm going to move to Kansas to attend UMKC school of law.

Hugo Bernardi - Attend Texas A&M-Commerce and then transfer to TAMU in College Station after a year.

Jasmin Ramirez - After high school I plan on attending NTCC and getting a part-time job within healthcare and would love to travel the world at some point.

Karigan Fox - I plan to attend the University of Arkansas and major in Pre-Professional Dentistry to ultimately become an Orthodontist.

Esteban Trejo- Attend Texas A&M at College Station and major in Biochemistry.

Frida Zecaida- Attend college to become a pediatric nurse.

Sherlyn Chavelas - Attend NTCC and study Business and Administration while working as a cosmetologist.

Keller Thompson- To continue my education and play baseball in college.

Rosario Antolin - Become a real estate agent and move far away and succeed in life and be happy.

Michelle Calderon- Be a part of the honors program



Evelyn Rodriguez



Amiah Thornton



Lizy Bautista



Hugo Bernardi



Juan Nava

at NTCC for a year or so and then transfer to study Criminal Justice/Criminology.



Rosario Antolin

Odalys Adame-NTCC the transfer to UT Dallas for computer Science.

Theatre presents The Complete Works of William Shakespeare





Academic Blankets awarded

At the annual Academic Awards held on May 10 in the MPHS auditorium, 66 students were presented Academic Blanket awards for having the highest overall average in his or her respective subject.

Those 66 students make up only about 4% of the population of MPHS. The Academic Blanket Awards have been sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce for several years, with businesses vying for the chance to sponsor and purchase a blanket for a student.

Representatives from each of those businesses were in attendance that evening to present the awards to the students.

Those awarded Academic Blankets and the sponsoring businesses included:

Denise Saldivar—Accounting (McGuire-Dyke CPAs); Brady Sisk—Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (Sisk Motors); Inacio Hernandez—Ag Mechanics (Prieffert); Samuel Brown—Agriscience (Elliott Auto Group); Diego Ugalde—Algebra I (Vera Bank); Sophie Greco—Algebra II (Texas A&M University-Texarkana); Keller Thompson—Anatomy & Physiology (East Texas Children's Dentistry); Jacob Townson—Animal Science (Titus County Fair Association); Mariana Gonzalez—Art (Warrior Tax); Aachal Amin—Band (Toyota of Mount Pleasant); Gopi Amin—Biology (Robert C. Sikes, D.D.S); Parker Colley—AP Biology (The Pediatric Clinic); Joseline Almazan—Business Information Management (Baker and Johnson CPA); Nic Chappell III—Calculus (Elliott Auto Group); Emma Burrows—Career Preparation (Titus Regional Medical Center); Kiara Rundles—Chemistry (Greater Hope Church of God in Christ); Abril Ramirez—

Choir (Higginbotham Insurance); Ximena Tovar—Communications (Cypress Bank); Martin Gonzalez—Construction Technology (Stansell Construction); Keanie Covarubias—Cosmetology (First Federal Community Bank); David Chavez—Culinary Arts (Elliott Auto Group)

Victoria Hernandez—Dance (1st Texas Financial Services); Monserrat Rivero Sanchez—Education & Training (AA Treehouse Learning Center); Gabriel Perez—Electrical Technology (Dekoron Wire and Cable); Rossy Banegas—Engineering (Diamond C Trailers); Samuel Chappell—English I (Elliott Auto Group); Ella Cross—English II (NETX Blinds); Natalie Crockett—English III (Mayben Realty); Lainy Blackstone—AP English IV (Elliott Auto Group); Delaila Aleman—Dual Credit English IV (Big Dog Roofing and Construction); Taylor Hubbs—AP Environmental Science (MP Pack and Mail); Isaac Villarruel—Environmental Systems (Republic Service); Wendy Alarcon—Fashion Design (Stephenson Dirt Contracting); Rachel Cato—Forensic Science (Tumey Mortuary); Alondra Villanueva Carro—French IV (Patrick Redfearn Realty); Luke Thurman—Geometry (Thurmans Pro-Med Pharmacy); Vanessa Buendia—AP Government & Economics (American National Bank); Mary Kait Heeren—Dual Credit Government & Economics (Luigi's Italian Café); Nathaniel Martinez—Health Science Theory (Northeast Texas Credit Union); Malazia Batiste—Instructional Practice in Education (Texas Best Realty); Caleb Whitten—Journalism Newspaper (Guaranty Bank and Trust); Michelle Cal-

See Blankets, Pg. 21

Barkley receives TABC Assistant Coach honor

Assistant Basketball Coach Drew Barkley has been named Assistant Coach of the Year by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC), an award granted to only eight coaches across the state.

TABC awardees are nominated by Texas High School basketball coaches and voted on by Regional coordinators and committees.

Barkley began his coaching career in Hallsville where he served as both the freshman coach and head varsity coach. He then coached at Bullard and Linden-Kildare before coming to MP in 2014. In his 8 seasons with MP he has helped lead the Tigers to a 191-72 record. During the 2022 season, Barkley was acting head coach for six games with a 4-2 record.

"I love coaching in Mount Pleasant," said Barkley. "From day one, Coach Chism has put his full trust in me to help run his program and it truly is a joint effort. Our players have worked extremely hard for us and put their faith in us as well to bring out the best



Coach Barkley has been at MPHS since 2014.

in them. This award is truly special because a lot of the work I do is not easily recognizable. I enjoy serving our program behind the scenes but it feels good to be noticed every now and then. I am humbled and honored that Coach Chism nominated me and that the TABC selection committee

recognized my efforts."

In addition to coaching basketball and track, Barkley teaches Advanced Quantitative Reasoning. His wife Rachel is the Trauma-Informed Care Specialist at the Child Development Center in MP-ISD. Together they have three children: Bri, Beckett, and Brynlee.

Blankets from Page 20

deron—Journalism Yearbook (Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant)

Kaitlyn Reese—Law Enforcement (North-east Texas Community College); Harrison Wall—Marketing Education (East Texas Recycling); Yesenia Rosiles—Math Models (Denney Land Surveying); Manoa Bagsic—Music Theory (Pilot Club); Jasmin Ramirez—Patient Care Tech (Cypress Basin Hospice); Connelly Cowan—AP Physics C (Cowan Inspection); Ethan Harbour—Dual Credit Physics (Big Tex Trailers); Harley Martin—Piano (St. Michaels); Perla Guzman—Practicum in Health Science I (Brookshire's Grocery); Yoana Amador—Practicum in Health Science II (Pleasant Smiles Dental); Devin Castaneda—Pre-Calculus (H&R Block Services); Joshua Espinoza—Scientific Research &

Design (Mid America Pet Food); Caroline Currey—Spanish I (Texas A&M University-Texarkana); Rebeca Martinez—Spanish I Bilingual (Suzie Castillo—Lighthouse Realty); Kit Thompson—Spanish II (East Texas Children's Dentistry); Beverly Zuniga—Spanish II Bilingual (Mt. Pleasant Youth Soccer Association); Hannah Anderson—Spanish III (Sandlin Motors); Noemy Dorantes—AP Spanish Language & Culture (MP Rentals); Zach Carpenter—Sports Medicine (Mt. Pleasant Youth Soccer Association); Vanessa Jane Bayna—Statistics (Alan G. Carter CPA); Rian Richie—Theater (Phil and Jennifer Scudder); Camdon Johnson—U.S. History (Elliott Auto Group); Jose Gonzalez—World Geography (Stephenson Dirt Contracting) and Clinton DeBord—World History (Pilgrim Bank).

Spring Athletic Signings



Nic Chappell
Louisiana Christian-Football



Daniel Robles
Southern Arkansas-Cross Country



Layne Pinckard
Southern Ark CC-Baseball



Anthony Jeffery
Louisiana Christian-Football



Ervin Mickens
Hendrix College-Football



Evan Grissom
National Park College-Baseball

Spring Athletic Signings



Ed Wilder
Oklahoma Panhandle St.-Football



Genesis Roberson
Southwestern Christian-Volleyball



Haley Martinez
Texas A&M Texarkana-Soccer



Ladi Guereca
Southwestern Christian-Volleyball



Trinitee Brannon
Midway College-Volleyball



JD Mendoza
Paul Quinn College-Soccer

Twenty questions with Mr. Chamness

By MICHELLE CALDERON
Tigertalk Staff Writer

In each issue of the Tigertalk, the newspaper features a different teacher to spotlight.

This issue spotlights Mr. Ricky Chamness, who teaches Law Enforcement classes, is an advisor for Texas Public Safety Association and is retiring after a long career of service.

1. How long have you been teaching at MPHS and what do you teach?

I've been with the district for 28 years - 17 as a police officer and 11 teaching Principles of Law Enforcement and Law Enforcement 1.

2. What is one of your favorite memories from your time at MPHS?

I had a student about 10 years ago that was constantly in trouble. I got really agitated with her and gave her a harsh talking to. I asked her if she was going to turn out like her mom, (whom I had arrested several times)? She left MPHS a short time later. I saw her 6 years later. She said she'd finished high school and was about to graduate from college.

3. What do you enjoy most about teaching at MPHS?

Definitely the kids. I really enjoy picking on them, harassing them and seeing that look on their face when they finally get something I've been explaining to them.

4. What is one thing you like about the subject you teach?

There are so many different topics, I never run out of lessons to teach.

5. What was your dream job as a kid?

Believe it or not, I wanted to be a police officer.

6. What is one of your favorite childhood memories?

Going fishing with my Dad.

7. Did you have a favorite subject growing up? Yes. If so, what was it?

Math and lunch. In that order.

8. What is your favorite movie and what do you like about it?

Hoosiers. It the true story about the 1953 Indiana State Basketball Champs.

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Chamness is retiring after 28 years.

9. Who is your favorite musical artist?

Chris Tomlin and Jason Roy Why? The message they convey to people, and Jason Roy was one of my first D.A.R.E. Role models.

10. What is your favorite sports team?

University of Duke Blue Devils

11. What are some hobbies you enjoy?

Golf and harassing students. Why? Golf is a challenge and harassing students is FUN.

12. What was your favorite vacation spot?

Cloudcroft, N.M. We spent a week there in August and the high temperature for the week was about 70.

13. What is one place you would like to visit?

Mount Rushmore

14. What is something unique you have done?

During my time as a police officer, I had the opportunity to do a lot of unique
See Chamness, Pg. 25



From left are HOSA state competitors Edgar Gonzalez, Denisse Brito Torres, Rachel Rodriguez, Natalie Crockett, Jonathan Tepetate.

HOSA students win state awards

The Mount Pleasant High School chapter of HOSA: Future Health Professionals competed at the HOSA State Conference on April 19-22 at the Galveston Island Convention Center.

MPHS brought home state awards in Community Awareness and HOSA Happenings. The team of Rachel Rodriguez, Jonathan Tepetate, and Natalie Crockett presented their year-long Community Awareness project, Kill the Stigma, which sought to raise awareness of mental health struggles and resources available. The team placed 6th out of 20 entries.

Edgar Gonzalez was recognized with a Cer-

tificate of Excellence in HOSA Happenings, a newspaper-style event in which the student writes about the chapter events/involvement with their community.

“I am extremely proud of our students for placing at the State Conference this year in Galveston,” said MPHS HOSA Advisor, Kristi Houchin. “Our students have worked extremely hard all year to make it to this level of competition. We, the advisors, are excited to see what next year holds during the competition season.”

The MPHS Chapter of HOSA is advised by Houchin, Angie Ayers, Stephanie Bumpus, and Mandy Hutchings.

Chamness from Page 24

things. I’ve driven an ambulance and sat on a dead-end road for 8 hours during a manhunt for an escaped murderer.

15. What is the biggest learning experience you have had?

The biggest lesson I have learned is that just because some has a bunch of letters behind their name, that doesn’t make the smart.

16. Best piece of advice you have received?

Treat people like you want to be treated, as long as they let you.

17. You are stuck on an island, if you could pick one food to eat forever without getting tired of it, what

would you eat?

Teriyaki Hot wings!!!!!!!!!!!!

18. If you could switch lives with someone for a day, who would it be?

John, the Baptist, because I would get to meet Jesus in person.

19. What are you looking forward to now that you are retiring?

Going to Mt. Rushmore!!!!!!!!

20. What are you going to miss most about MPHS?

Definitely the kids. There are times when you like to knock some sense into them, but most of the time ALL of my students are awesome. I will definitely miss MPISD. I really LOVE this place.

FFA teams compete at state

Two Mount Pleasant High School FFA teams recently competed in State FFA Career Development Events. MPHS sent a team of four to the State Plant ID competition at Texas Tech University on April 23 and another team of four to the State Forage Evaluation contest at Sam Houston State University on April 29.

In the Plant ID contest, team members McKinna Wooton, Jacob Townson, Lincoln Ellis, and Ethan Easley had to identify samples of grasses, forbs, legumes, and woody plants.

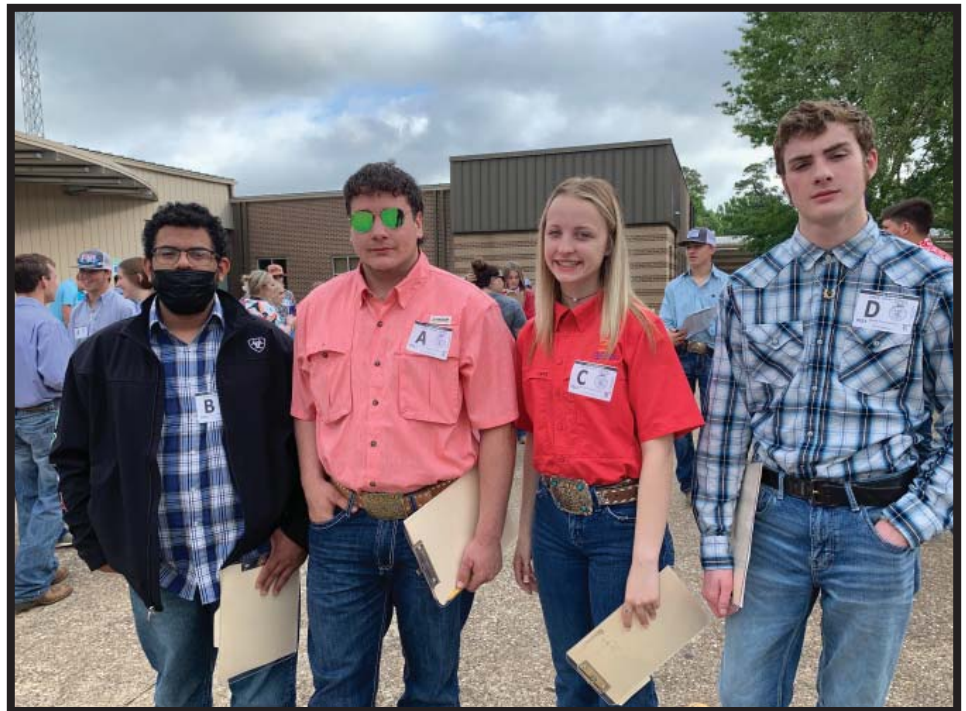
For each, they also had to indicate the length of life, the season of growth, their origin, and the economic values of the plant species on wildlife and grazing livestock. The team placed 25th in the state. They were advised by Susie Hearron.

In the Forage Evaluation contest, team members Codi Dennis, Brazos Brown, Angel Nava, and Ethan Wilson had to apply their knowledge of various forage species to evaluate hay based on desired physical properties.

They also had to complete a quiz that tests



From left are Ethan Easley, Lincoln Ellis, McKinna Wooton and Jacob Townson.



From left are Angel Nava, Brazos Brown, Codi Dennis and Ethan Wilson.

team members' knowledge of different aspects of the forages and hay industries, and had to identify different species of grasses, legumes,

and pest plants common to pastures.

The team placed 32nd in the state. They were advised by Leigh Ann Freeman.

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Tiger Roar

What was your favorite thing about high school?

Tiger Roar page by Nathali Rojas and Isaiah Rodarte



“Sports”
-- Derrick Marshall



“Getting to meet new people”
-- Skyler Nelson



“Halftime show”
-- Estefanie Torres



“Track and cross country”
-- Daniel Robles



“Leaving”
-- Daivik Escobar



“Mr. Whitten’s classes”
-- Edgar Gonzalez



“Friendships”
-- Jackelin Gomez



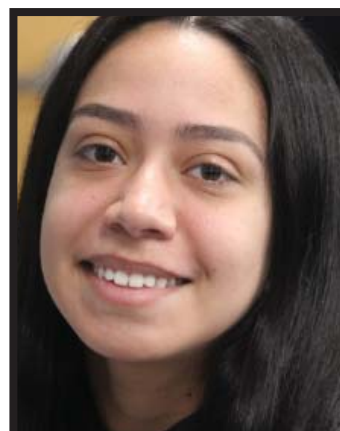
“Sports”
-- Johnny Smith



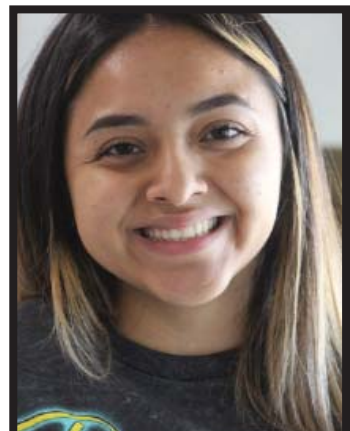
“Seeing how teachers
change through the years”
--- Keterian Traylor



“Being around your
friends”
--- Keller Thompson



“Making fun memories
and new friends”
--- Evelyn Rodriguez



“Meeting new people and
making new friends”
--- Jasmin Ramirez