

# Tigertalk

**Tigers  
take first  
in tourney**

**Christmas Queen Jillian Adair  
and King Ethan Easley**

**Volume 48**

**Issue 2**

**December 2022**

# What's Inside

## Stories & Photos

NTHS.....	Page 2
Christmas Royalty.....	Page 3
Christmas Parade.....	Page 4
Senior Christmas Party.....	Page 5
Mr. and Miss MPHS.....	Page 6
Project MP Safe.....	Page 7
Class Favorites.....	Page 8
Senior Superlatives.....	Pages 8-9
FBLA.....	Page 9
20 Questions.....	Page 10
Voice of Democracy.....	Page 10
NTHS Induction.....	Page 11
Debate.....	Page 12
UIL.....	Page 13
Senior Spotlight.....	Page 14
Boys Basketball.....	Pages 15-16
Girls Basketball.....	Page 16
High School Heisman.....	Page 17
Choir.....	Page 17
Halloween Party.....	Page 18
Career Prep.....	Page 18
Tiger Roar.....	Page 20



Some MPHS members of National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) visited residents at Greenhill Villa on Dec. 9. These student members visited with and presented the residents with a small gift. Christmas caroling is always included in our visits to the Villa. The residents always welcome visitors, especially around the holidays. They like to join in the fun, music and singing. These visits are important to them as well as to our organization, and our kids enjoy it as much as the residents. NTHS sponsors are Donna Davis and Jackie Scoggins.

## Tigertalk NEWS STAFF

**Co-Editors:** Audrie Mendoza and Nathalie Rojas

**Staff Writers, Photographers, Designers:** Brandon Adame, Desiree Avila, Alan Barrientos, Idania Castanon, Ana Ceballos, Brennan Daly, Jordan Don Juan, Noemy Dorantes, Ollie Floyd, Jovani Garcia, Gabriel Garza, Zachary Haygood, Jahn Leija Martinez, Melanie Logue, Juan Ramirez, Juan Sierra-Rosales, Alberto Tapia, Katelyn Tejeda and Josue Vega.

**Advisor:** John Whitten

**Special Contributor:** Kelly Cowan,  
MPISD Director of Communications

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 in Room 401 of the CATE Building.

# Easley, Adair selected Christmas king, queen

By AUDRIE MENDOZA  
Tigertalk Co-Editor

High school seniors chose Ethan Easley and Jillian Adair as Christmas king and queen for 2022.

Easley is the son of Heslie Zacarias and Kasey Easley. Ethan serves as Texas FFA Area 6 secretary and Mount Pleasant FFA chapter president.

When asked how it felt to be recognized as Christmas king, Ethan said, "It feels amazing to be blessed with this. I am truly grateful for my MPHS family and friend who voted for me."

After high school, he plans to attend the University of Arkansas and major in Agricultural Business.

He also plans to make music during his free time. His hobbies include playing his guitar, singing, welding and hunting.

Ethan's role model would be his dad.

"My dad is my biggest role model, because he has taught me that no matter how tired you may be, you have to keep pushing to succeed," Easley said.

His favorite food would be Italian and favorite class is AQR.

Adair is the daughter of Chris Adair and Christine Lofland. Jillian has



Adair and Easley

been in cheer all 4 years of high school and is varsity senior cheer captain.

Upon being named Christmas queen, Adair said "It felt amazing to be recognized. I'm so grateful to be given the opportunity to represent Mount Pleasant high school as Christmas queen."

Her hobbies include hanging out with friends

and family. After high school she plans to attend college and get a business degree, then her real estate license.

Jillian's role models are her mom and dad. Her favorite food is Italian, and her favorite class would be English because as she says, "It's always been a fun class for me."

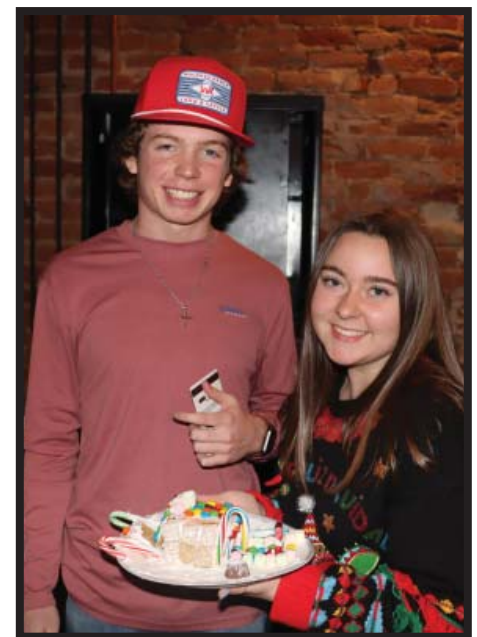


# CHRISTMAS PARADE





# Senior Christmas Party







Lozano and Flores both plan to attend NTCC and then Texas A&M-Texarkana.

# Seniors elect Flores, Lozano for Mr. and Miss MPHS honor

By NATHALI ROJAS  
Tigertalk Co-Editor

High school seniors recently chose Cesar Flores and Gyselle Lozano as Mr. and Miss MPHS in a balloting done for senior superlatives.

Flores is the son of Vilma Venegas and Julio Flores. In school, he participated in varsity soccer and is in NHS.

When Flores was asked how it felt to be recognized Cesar responded, "I would like to thank them for choosing me. It's an honor to represent the student body."

In his spare time, Cesar enjoys listening to music, studying fashion and playing soccer.

After high school he plans to attend Northeast Texas Community College, then transfer to Texas A&M-Texarkana to major in Sports Management or Sports Journalism. Cesar's role model is his mother because she taught him to fight hard for what you want.

*Pg. 6 Tigertalk*

Cesar's favorite food is shrimp. His favorite class is government because he is able to learn how the U.S. system works.

Gyselle is the daughter of Yolanda and Leonel Lozano. Throughout high school she has been a part of volleyball, track, HOSA, and Practicum for Medical Assistant

Lozano enjoys watching movies and hanging out with friends and family.

Upon being named Miss MPHS, Lozano said "I felt very surprised. I never thought I would be recognized this way by my peers. I'm very thankful this is how my senior year is ending."

After high school, she plans to go to NTCC to get her basics then transfer to Texas A&M-Texarkana and work her way to becoming a physical therapist. Her role model is her parents.

Her favorite food is lasagna and hamburgers. Gyselle's favorite class is health science because she loves learning about the human body and how to treat it.



From left are Harbour, Crockett, Diaz and Guzman.

# Project MP SAFE seeks to inform on emergency health protocol

By NATALIE CROCKETT  
Tigertalk Contributor

The team of Natalie Crockett, Ethan Harbour, Perla Guzman, and Paulina Diaz created Project MP SAFE (Safely Administer First Aid Every time) as part as their HOSA Community Awareness project.

Inspired by the new safety protocol implemented at MPISD over the past few months, our Community Awareness initiative consisted of instructing students and faculty of the school district on emergency health protocol.

Because of rurality of our area, access to CPR, Stop the Bleed, and other First Aid instructional classes is limited, and we wanted to increase community accessibility to this knowledge through free classes.

With this initiative, we hosted community-wide classes on the first Saturdays of October and November at MPISD's Administration building. Additionally, on our Facebook page, we

posted summaries of various procedures for those unable to attend an in-person class.

We also instructed FBLA's middle level chapter at Wallace, MPISD custodians, the MPISD maintenance department, MPHS Law Enforcement, and MPHS HOSA. Our instruction mainly focused on CPR, Stop the Bleed, anaphylaxis, heart attacks, choking, burns, and sprain treatment.

Our reasons for choosing this topic were multitudinous, however, we were mainly focused on the statistics surrounding emergency situations and survival rates over time.

For example, according to the New England Journal of Medicine, severe bleeding accounts for 35% of pre-hospital deaths and nearly 40% of deaths within the first 24 hours of injury.

Knowledge of how to stop severe bleeding in a timely manner could reduce this statistic significantly. Additionally, sudden cardiac death is the largest cause of natural

death in the United States and around 705 of Americans are reluctant to perform CPR due to unease regarding their skill in the subject.

As time goes on, chances of resuscitation without permanent neurological damage decreases significantly. We hoped that though our instruction, we could refresh memories and make people more confident in performing CPR, applying tourniquets, etc...through practice.

This HOSA project will presented before a panel of judges in at the HOSA Texas Area 3 Leadership Conference in January. The event consists of a compilation of all we accomplished in the form of a portfolio as well as a five-minute speech summarizing our initiative and why it is important to us.

With this project, we thoroughly hope that we were able to raise awareness for the lack of access to emergency protocol instruction, and increase the accessibility of this instruction to our community.



# Students select class favorites



Seniors Camdon Johnson and Adriana Orona



Juniors Daniel Mejia and Angelina Hernandez



Sophomores Luke Thurman and Kimberly Ramirez



Freshmen Jazlynn Chism and Julian Chancellor

## Senior superlatives announced

By IDANIA CASTANON  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The following seniors who were elected for superlative honors by their classmates.

**Mr. and Miss MPHS** – Cesar Flores and Gyselle Lozano

**Most Athletic** – Boys: Payton Chism, Giovanni Calderon, and Xavier Hills; Girls: Paris Beard, Jordyn Hargrave, and Nayeli Jaimes

**Most Talented** – Boys: Sebastian Campos, Manoa Bagsic, and Ethan Easley; Girls: Madison Carpenter, Chloe Carter, and Yes-

enia Paloblanco

**Most Likely to Succeed** – Boys: Ethan Harbour, Camdon Johnson, and Anthony Orellana; Girls: Natalie Crockett, Reese Ball, and Perla Guzman

**Best Personality** – Saul Alvarado, Samuel Morua, and Wesley Tyler; Girls: Alexandra Estrada, Kylie Humber, and Madeline Plasencia

**Most Shy** – Boys: Jose Lopez, Caleb Whitten, and Jack Welborn; Girls: Gracelyn McClendon, Vanessa Bayna, and Karli Hill.

See Superlatives, Pg. 9





MPHS FBLA students outside the American Airlines Center, home of the Dallas Mavericks.

## FBLA attends Mavericks game

Mount Pleasant High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter had the opportunity to travel to Dallas and participate in the Mavericks' annual Business Marketing Day on Dec. 6.

Students toured American Airlines Center and heard presentations from marketing, sales and public relations officials with the Mavericks.

Topics included digital content, journalism, marketing, sales, public relations, in-

ternships, game-day planning, creating videos, and advertising.

It was a great opportunity for students to learn about the different careers available in the sports and entertainment industry.

After the tour and speaking engagements, students stayed and helped cheer the Mavericks on to victory over the Phoenix Suns, 130-111. MPHS FBLA is advised by John Whitten, Shanta Lockett, and Brian Williams.

## Superlatives from Page 9

**Best Smile** – Boys: Luke Hampton, Lincoln Ellis, and Kyler Smith; Girls: Ilse Ojendis, Madison Craig, and Sofia Palacios

**Most Dramatic** – Boys: Saul Alvarado, Eli Rider, Jeremiah Evans; Girls: Adriana Orona, Taniah Johnson, and Natalie Crockett

**Most Changed since Freshman Year** – Boys: Isaac Hernandez, Jett Long, and Param Poudel; Girls: Evelyn Valente, Silvia Sustaita, and Juanita Gutierrez

**Most Sarcastic** – Boys: Ashton Simon, Javier Vasquez, and Lincoln Ellis; Girls:

Adriana Orona, Reagan Houchin, and Melanie Delacruz

**Most likely to be late to Graduation** – Boys: Oscar Olea, Tytus Nance, and Paulino Mendoza; Girls: Emma Sellers, Lizette Ramirez, and Rosa Delgado

**Best Friends Forever** - Kevi Heath- Xaviera Hills, Evan Shelley-Wesley Tyler, and Antony Orellana-Eli Rider; Girls: Jazmine Palma-Melissa Vasquez, Lindsay Botello-Sofia Palacios, and Gyselle Lozano-Natalie Rodriguez

# Twenty Questions with Mr. Gonzalez

By ZACHARY HAYGOOD  
and OLLIE FLOYD

## Tigertalk Staff Writers

Each issue of the Tigertalk, the newspaper staff features a different teacher.

This issue spotlights Mr. Rene Gonzalez, who teaches Algebra 1.

**1. How long have you been working at MPHS?**

4 years

**2. What is your favorite part of your job?**

Seeing my former students walk the stage to get their diploma

**3. Did you always plan to be a teacher?**

No, it was not my first plan.

**4. What backup plans did you have, if you had any?**

Go into logistics, supply chains

**5. What accomplishments are you most proud of?**

Graduating from college

**6. What do you look forward to in the future?**

Right now, the Xmas Break

**7. Who was your role model growing up?**

My Dad

**8. When did you realize you wanted to be a teach-**



**Gonzalez**

**er?**

Fall of 2015

**9. Why did you choose Algebra 1?**

It was my favorite subject in school and college

**10. What is your favorite hobby?**

Watching NBA games

**11. Which music artists do you like to listen to?**

Pearl Jam, Stone Temple pilots, anything grunge from the 90's

**12. What was your favorite subject growing up?**

Algebra and Calculus

**13. What is your favorite holiday and why?**

Thanksgiving because of the food.

**14. What would be your dream vacation?**

Hawaii

**15. If you could have a supernatural ability, what would you want to be?**

Teleport so I don't have to pay for airplane tickets or gas anymore.

**16. What is your favorite sport and why?**

Basketball because I played in high school.

**17. What is something unique you have done in your life?**

I can't recall at the moment.

**18. What is your favorite show to watch and why?**

Deadliest catch because its one of the most dangerous jobs out there with a high reward

**19. What has been one of your biggest accomplishments of your life?**

Graduating college.

**20. If you weren't a teacher, what career would you like to have?**

Logistics.

## Juniors place in Voice of Democracy contest

Juniors Angelina Hernandez and Sophie Greco recently competed in the Camp County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Voice of Democracy competition with Hernandez placing first and Greco second.

The Voice of Democracy has been the VFW's premier scholarship program since 1947. Participants submitted an audio essay of 3-5 minutes on "Why the Veteran is Important." Hernandez and Greco will be honored at an awards ceremony at the VFW on Dec.14 where Hernandez will receive a \$100 and Greco will receive a \$75 scholarship.



**Greco and Hernandez**





Officers, new members and advisors for National Technical Honor Society.

## NTHS inducts 50 new members

Fifty Mount Pleasant High School students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) at a candlelight ceremony on Nov. 17 in the MPHS cafeteria.

To be a member of NTHS, a student must be enrolled in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) class, maintain a cumulative weighted GPA of 5.1, be a member of a CTE organization (FBLA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, FFA, FCCLA, TPSA), complete service hours and maintain a clean discipline record. The 50 new members join the 46 returning senior members.

Officers for 2022-2023 are President Mary Reeve, Vice President Saul Alvarado, Secretary Melissa Vasquez, Treasurer Roberto Cigarroa, Historian Norma Delgado, and Officer at Large Kylie Humber.

New members for 2022-2023 are Genesis Aguilar, Joseline Almazan, Mea

Banda, Jason Barrientos, Morgan Brooks, Shirlyn Cardona, Idania Castanon, Yasmin Castaneda, Oscar Castellanos, Nathaniel Cates, Nicholas Cates, Rachel Cato, Madison Craig, Lincoln Ellis, Perla Ferrer, Lakyn Fortenberry, Jose Fuentes, Estefani Garcia, Isabel Garza Aguirre, Sandy Hernandez, Stephanie Hernandez, Rocio Herrera, Cheyenne King, Araceli Landaverde, Erik Liera, Natalie Lopez, Silvia Lopez, Harley Martin, Jayleen Martinez, Nathaniel Martinez, Yalit Mata, Christopher Moreno, Angel Munoz, Annie Munoz, Joel Palacios, Yasenia Paloblanco, Andrew Perez, Estven Perez, Yadelina Perez, Cecilia Phan, Hope Powell, Andrianna Price, Charis Ramirez, Humberto Ramirez, Jacqueline Reyes, Nathali Rojas, Evan Shelley, Joseph Tolentino, Emilia Vega, and Shpat Zeqaj.

The returning senior mem-

bers are Wendy Alarcon, Vanessajane Bayna, Paris Beard, Hannah Bowles, Jenna Cook, Natalie Crockett, Rosa Delgado, Paulina Diaz, Luis Garcia, Perla Guzman, Ethan Harbour, Kayla Hernandez, Karli Hill, Camdon Johnson, Jose Lopez, Alison Majors, Marcela Mata, Samantha McClenan, Gracelyn McClendon, Nancy Netro, Ilse Ojendis, Anthony Orellana, Adriana Orona, Kimberly Pina, Madeline Plascencia, Viridiana Portillo, Jacqueline Ramirez, Lizzette Ramirez, Tiffany Rangel, Elijah Rider, Dulce Rivera, Natalie Rodriguez, Chris Russell, Briana Sanchez, Camila Serrano, Madison Thompson, Galilea Torres, Javier Vazquez, Kendall Walker, and Jack Welborn.

Sponsors for the organization are MPHS Career and Technology teachers Donna Davis and Jackie Scoggins with CTE Director Karl Whitehurst.



**MPHS Speech and Debate team members at UT Austin from left are Gopi Amin, Angelina Hernandez, Anthony Orellana, Madeline Tumey-Simmons, Elijah Rider and Merlin Cardona.**

## **Debate competes at Longhorn Classic**

The Mount Pleasant High School Speech and Debate team competed at the Longhorn Classic on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin on December 2-4. The tournament featured 111 schools from 10 states. MP Speech and Debate took six team members who competed in three different categories and brought home two medals.

In Lincoln Douglas debate, senior Anthony Orellana made history, becoming the first MPHS team member to advance to Octafinals in that event. The field began day one with 160 competitors. Orellana defeated opponents from Southlake Carroll, St. Mary's Hall, St. Agnes, and Plano East for a 4-2 record and a 22nd seed out of prelims.

He then defeated competitors from The Greenhill School and Westwood and was finally eliminated by an opponent from Prospect High School in California. He finished in the top 16 out of 160 for his final appearance at the Longhorn Classic.

The placement also secured the final

points he needed to qualify for the Texas Forensic Association (TFA) State Tournament in March.

Junior Angelina Hernandez and sophomore Gopi Amin also competed in LD with each picking up wins and valuable national level experience.

In Individual Events, senior Madeline Tumey-Simmons medaled as a quarter-finalist in Oral Interpretation. The field began day one with 84 competitors. After prelims, Tumey-Simmons finished in the top 32, just narrowly missing advancing to semifinals by one rank in her final appearance at the Longhorn Classic. Newcomer Elijah Rider also competed in Oral Interpretation, seeing success in his very first national level tournament. Senior Merlin Cardona competed in Congressional Debate, gaining valuable experience and practice for UIL State.

MP Speech and Debate will compete in one final tournament before Christmas break then will turn their attention to the UIL State Congressional meet in January.



# UIL teams rebuilding with many new students

By IDANIA CASTANON  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

With many UIL senior graduates last year, teachers have been looking for new students to join their UIL teams. The journalism team had only one returning member this year, but now they have seen more students than ever before, with a total of eight freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.

One of them is Noemy Dorantes, a junior competing in Journalism for the first time. She is competing in many journalism events such as Cody Editing, News Writing, and Editorial Writing. She says that her improvements need to be more about managing the time that they give her to write.

Although she has placed in many events, she has yet to reach her goal of getting 1st place in her events.

"My biggest challenge would be that this is my first year competing compared to others," Dorantes said.

Social Studies UIL is also a team that gained many new members this year. Including Stephanie Hernandez, a junior who is competing for the first time in UIL. As a new member at her first competing, she was able to help her team win first place.

Individually in the last two meets Stephanie placed 5th and 3rd place. One of her main struggles was that there is a lot of material that needs to be learned and it's hard to tell what little details she really needs to know.

"You need to be consistent and constantly refreshing your memory on the material," Hernandez said.

The UIL team opened its season with the Fall Tiger Invitational held on the MPHS campus. Overall, MPHS took second place with many team members competing at their first ever tournament.

The Math team took first place as a team. Individually, in 10th grade, Samuel Chappell placed 3rd and Steffanie Espiritu 4th. In 11th grade, Nathaniel Martinez placed 2nd. And in 12th grade, Isaac Hernandez was 1st, Devin Castaneda 2nd, Perla Guzman 3rd, Param Poudel 4th, and Natalie Crockett 6th. Overall medalists in Math were Isaac Hernandez 3rd, Devin Castaneda 4th, Perla Guzman 5th, and Param Poudel 6th.

The Calculator Applications team also took first place as a team. Individually, in 9th grade, Alessandro Greco placed 2nd. In 10th grade, Tanner Marshall was 1st, Amir Martinez 3rd, Samuel Chappell 4th, and Kate Ball 5th. In 11th grade, Nathaniel Martinez placed 1st, with Clinton Debord 4th and Kiara Rundles in 5th. In 12th grade, Devin



MPHS UIL Academic Team



Noemy Dorantes

Castaneda was 1st, Param Poudel 2nd, Isaac Hernandez 3rd, and Ethan Harbour placed 5th. Overall Calculator medalists were Nathaniel Martinez 1st, Devin Castaneda 3rd, Param Poudel 4th, and Isaac Hernandez 5th.

The Social Studies team placed first as a team, taking 4 of the 6 medals awarded. Individual placings were Estven Perez 1st, Vanessajane Bayna 2nd, Stephanie Hernandez 5th, and Jeisy Munoz 6th.

The Journalism team placed second as a team with only one returning team member. Individual results were:

**Copy Editing:** Idania Castanon 4th, Brissia Alvaraz 5th and Celeste Landin 6th

**News Writing:** Castanon 2nd, Ana Ceballos 5th and Noemy Dorantes 6th

**Feature Writing:** Castanon 2nd, Dorantes 5th and Ceballos 6th

**Editorial Writing:** Eli Rider 2nd, Natalia Aspeitia 3rd and Dorantes 6th

**Headlines:** Castanon 3rd, Landin 5th and Alvarez 6th

The Spelling team took second place as a team. Individually, Isabel



Stephanie Hernandez

Gonzales placed 3rd, Sophie Greco 4th, Angelina Hernandez 5th, and Natalia Aspeitia 6th.

The Number Sense team placed 2nd overall as a team. In 9th grade, Alessandro Greco placed 3rd with Angel Farias 4th. In 10th grade, Luke Thurman was 3rd, Jose Gonzalez 4th, Evan Cota 5th, and Jesus Moreno 6th. In 11th grade, Nathaniel Martinez placed 3rd. And in 12th grade, Ethan Harbour placed 3rd, with Perla Guzman 4th and Jose Trejo 5th.

The Current Events team placed 2nd as a team with Natalie Crockett 1st, Elijah Rider 4th, Anthony Orellana 5th, and Sophie Greco 6th.

In Ready Writing, MPHS took 4 of the 6 medals awarded with Makayla Spigner placing 1st, Brissia Alvarez 3rd, Natalia Aspeitia 4th, and Cinthya Ramirez 6th.

In Accounting, half of the medals awarded went to MPHS with Perla Guzman placing 4th, Wendy Alarcon 5th, and Merlin Cardona 6th.

And in Science, MPHS won 4 of the 6 medals awarded with Ethan Harbour placing 2nd, Devin Castaneda 3rd, Param Poudel 4th, and Natalie Crockett 5th.

# Senior Spotlight-Anthony Orellana

By NOEMY DORANTES  
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Each issue of Tigertalk spotlights a senior who is involved in a variety of organizations.

This issue of Tigertalk features Anthony Orellana. He serves as National Honor Society vice president, Speech and Debate president, Student Council vice president and member of FBLA and the Current Events team.

**What is the most challenging task as a senior?**

Actually showing up to school and completing schoolwork.

**What are your plans for the future?**

I plan on receiving a bachelor's in psychology with a minor in education and ethnic studies to become a licensed therapist with a specialty in mental health counseling.

**Which one memory will you remember forever about your time here?**

I will never forget about the creaks that the elevator in the English hall had.

**What is your dream college and why?**

Though I applied to multiple schools that I prefer, I don't really have a dream college. In fact, all the schools I applied to have a speech and debate program as I plan to compete in the collegiate level.

**What events or experiences have shaped your growth and way of thinking the most?**

Speech and debate helped me realize my self-worth



**Orellana is vice president of NHS**

and encouraged me to become a leader and succeed with humility and respect.

**What parts of high school has helped prepare you for college?**

I think speech and debate has provided me with the skills to write essays in a flash, be confident and prepared in interviews, and be strategic with college applications and other processes.

**Of which of your accomplishments are you most proud of and why?**

I'm most proud of placing 2nd at UIL CX state with my previous partner Connelly Cowan and win-

ning the golden gavel for top speaker out of 108 competitors.

**Which teacher/staff member has given you most inspiration?**

Mrs. Priefert has given me the most inspiration. Not only is she there to comfort me in times of struggle, but she's been like a second mother to me.

**What will you miss most about your time at MPHS?**

Being able to hang out with my friends and seeing them every day, well at least during the weekdays.



# Tigers win own basketball tourney

By DREW BARKLEY  
Tigertalk Contributor

The Mount Pleasant Tigers wasted no time in proving they were the best team on the court last weekend as the 4th Annual TRMC Tiger Town Tournament hosted twenty teams vying for the tournament crown. The Tigers went a perfect 5-0 in the large school division taking the tournament championship by defeating Princeton, Braswell, Azle, Corsicana, and Crandall. Chapel Hill also went undefeated to win the small school division, defeating Atlanta in the championship game.

## **Mt. Pleasant 61 Princeton 35**

The Tigers opened the tournament on Thursday with a convincing win against recent 5A addition Princeton. Mount Pleasant jumped out to a 15-7 lead after the first quarter and led 32-15 at halftime. Defense would be the theme of the tournament as the Tigers forced 26 turnovers and dominated in the paint with a 36-14 advantage around the rim. Payton Chism led all scorers with 18 points adding 5 assists. Carter Chism joined him in double digits with 10 points and also notched 3 steals. Kelcey Morris added 9 points and Kai Price put up 7 points and 7 rebounds. Xavier Hills and Reggie Webster chipped in 5 points each with Hills pulling down 6 rebounds and Webster a team-high 9 rebounds. Also scoring was Luke Hampton 4 points, Kyler Smith 2 points, and De'Keivous Heath 1 point.

## **Mount Pleasant 65 Braswell 44**

The nightcap on Thursday pitted the Tigers against last year's runner-up Braswell. The Bengals came out hot from three finishing the night 8 for 19 from beyond the arc but the Mount Pleasant defense was just too much as the humid air was the only suffocating presence in the gym.

The Tigers forced 21 turnovers which led to 28 points for the home team as Mount Pleasant used a 15-4 third quarter run to pull away and get the decisive win. Payton Chism scored 18 points for the second straight game to go along with 6 assists. Webster added 16 points along with Price and Carter Chism at 9 points each. Price also pulled down a team-high 6 boards. Morris chipped in 6 points, Hills 4 points, Heath 2 points, and Smith 1 point.

## **Mount Pleasant 57 Azle 37**

Friday proved to be no different as the Tigers put their fifth-straight 20+ point victory on the board versus Azle turning the Hornets over 20 times and winning the battle of



**Payton Chism**



**Reggie Webster**



**Kelcey Morris dribbles against Crandall defenders.**

the boards 34-28. Mount Pleasant jumped out to a 22-10 lead after the first quarter. Both offenses stalled in the second quarter with the Tigers leading 30-19 but the Tigers would win the third quarter 20-9 and cruise the rest of the way. Payton Chism poured in a season-high 22 points including a 4 for 8 mark from deep and added 7 rebounds for good measure. Hampton added 9 points along with Morris and Webster's 8 points each. Carter Chism put up 6 points and 4 assists and Hills and Smith had 2 points each.

## **Mount Pleasant 80 Corsicana 23**

The Tigers dominated from the start in this one as Mount Pleasant won by their largest deficit of the season. There was a plethora of points in the

paint as the Corsicana defense gave up 60 points to the Tigers. Mount Pleasant held the Corsicana offense to single digits in each quarter leading 25-7 after one quarter and 41-14 at the half. The Tigers pushed their lead to 65-19 heading into the fourth quarter. Mount Pleasant shot 69% from the field for their best offensive output of the season. Price led all scorers with 16 points. Hampton also scored in double figures with 14 points and Heath and Carter Chism each had 10 points. Morris nearly double-doubled with 7 points and 9 assists. Hills and Payton Chism also added 7 points. Webster added 4 points and a team-

**See Tigers, Pg. 16**

**Pg. 15 Tigertalk**



# Tigers from Page 15

high 8 rebounds, Smith had 4 points, and Rylan Hubbs had 1 point.

## Mount Pleasant 61 Crandall 33

The Tiger defense was on full display Saturday as Mount Pleasant held Crandall to 25% shooting from the field and turned over the Pirates 20 times. Holding teams to single digit quarters has become a staple of the Tiger defense as they won the first two quarters 14-6 and 17-3 to lead 31-9 at the half. The Tigers would win the third quarter 17-7 and clear the bench the rest of the way. Payton Chism filled the stat sheet with 12 points, 7 rebounds, and 6 assists. Price also played well with 12 points and 6 rebounds. Webster added 7 points, Hills and Heath each had 6 points, Smith had 5 points and 7 rebounds, and Carter Chism added 5 points, 5 rebounds, and 4 assists. Morris and Hampton rounded out the scoring with 4 points apiece.

Payton Chism garnered the tournament MVP award and Webster was named to the All-Tournament Team. Chism finished the tournament averaging 15.4 points per game and 4.4 assists. Webster was one of the Tigers' leading rebounders at 5.6 per game and averaged 8 points. Hills and Morris each received Honorable Mention. Hills averaged 1.4 steals and 3.2 rebounds in the tournament and had a monstrous dunk that sent the gym into a frenzy versus Crandall. Morris led the Tigers with 2.2 steals per game to go along with 3.6 assists. Kai Price had one of the best five-game stretches of his career averaging 8.8 points and 6 rebounds per game in the tournament.

The Tigers would like to thank Titus Regional Medical Center, Lighthouse Realty, Pilgrim's, East Texas Children's Dentistry, and the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce for helping put on a great tournament.



**Xavier Hills brings the ball up the court.**

With the wins, the Tigers moved up to #18 according to TABC and MaxPreps has the Tigers ranked at #6 in 5A. The Tigers will host Tyler Legacy this Friday at Willie Williams Gym with game times slated for 3:00, 4:15, 5:30 p.m. before beginning district play the next Tuesday at Whitehouse. You can follow Tiger Basketball on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

Chapel Hill took down Caldwell 87-41, Alvarado 49-47, Gunter 80-71, and Atlanta 68-50 to take the TRMC Tiger Town crown for the first time after falling in the championship game last year. Braden Buchanan was named tournament MVP and Jaydyn Haley was named to the All-Tournament Team. DeKalb took the Consolation Championship with a 50-41 win over Hemphill.

## Lady Tigers undefeated this season

The Mount Pleasant Lady Tigers remain undefeated on the season as they beat Tyler Legacy Friday night at the junior high gym.

In the latest basketball rankings, the Lady Tigers are ranked fifth by Texas High School Girls Basketball website. They are ranked 19th in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches poll.

The Lady Tigers opened district play this week with a win over Marshall on Tuesday and play at Tyler High Friday night.



**Paris Beard**



**Jordyn Hargrave**



**Aziyah Farrier**



**Ella Cross**



**Kendall Walker**



# Johnson, Ball win Heisman honor

MPHS seniors Camdon Johnson and Reese Ball have been chosen as the MPHS school winners for the 2022 Heisman High School Scholarship program.

The Heisman High School Scholarship extends the Heisman prestige to our nation's most esteemed high school seniors by recognizing and rewarding outstanding scholar-athletes who understand that the most important victories not only happen on the field, but in their schools and communities.

These remarkable young leaders set the example and make a game-changing difference every day, paving the way to greatness for everyone around them.

To apply, students must be graduating with the class of 2023, have a cumulative weighted high school grade point average of a B (3.0) or better, participate in at least one of the sports recognized by the International Olympic Committee, the Paralympic Games and/or the National Federation of State High School Association and be a leader in his/her school and community.

Johnson has participated in Tiger baseball, basketball, swim, track and field, football, and will dive for Mount Pleasant this year. He currently serves as President of the National Honor Society, Secretary of the Class of 2023, and is a member of HOSA, National Technical Honor Society, and Student Council. He received a National Rural and Small Town Scholar award from the College Board and was named All School Boy by the MPHS faculty this year. He is the son of Landon and Tracie Johnson.

Ball has participated in Lady Tiger Golf and MPHS Swim for four years. She was named



## Johnson and Ball

Academic All State Swim as a junior. She is currently President of FBLA, Treasurer of Student Council, and a member of National Honor Society and the UIL Math and English teams.

She received a National Rural and Small Town Scholar award from the College Board and was named All School Girl by the MPHS faculty this year. She is the daughter of Tim and Rebecca Ball.

## Choir students

### advance to area

Eleven Mount Pleasant High School Choir students participated in Pre-Area auditions on Thursday, Dec. 1 at the Region 8 Service Center in Mount Pleasant. Six have advanced to Area auditions in January: seniors Litzy Gonzalez (4th chair Alto 2) and Adrian Perez (4th chair Bass 2), juniors Hope Powell (5th chair Alto 2), Clayton Miller (4th chair Tenor 2), and Jacolby Turner (5th chair Tenor 2), and sophomore Kristina Tidwell (4th chair Soprano 2).

"I am proud of the tenacity these young musicians have exhibited as they have worked diligently in preparation for the first 2 rounds of auditions and con-



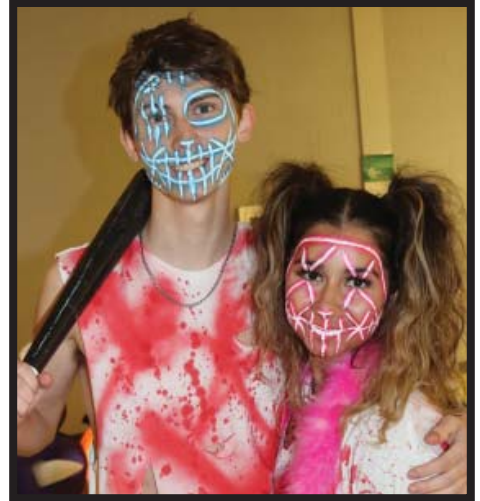
From left are Clayton Miller, Kristina Tidwell, Hope Powell, Litzy Gonzalez and Jacolby Turner. Not pictured is Perez

tinue to prepare for the upcoming audition," said MPHS Choir Director, Nancy Vines.

Area auditions will be held Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023 at Texas A&M University—Commerce.



# Senior Halloween Party



## Career Preparation class tours Lowe's

The MPHS Career Preparation class completed their job application unit by touring the Lowe's Distribution Center in Mount Vernon on Nov. 17. During class, students chose a job from Lowe's, typed a cover letter, resume, personal references, and completed a handwritten application.

While at Lowe's, the students learned about the opportunities offered through their company, toured the facility, participated in a mock interview, and took part in an activity that not only enhanced teamwork but efficiency also.

All students left with prizes and a better understanding of the everyday operations at Lowe's. The team conducting the tour was led by Regional General Manager, Tracey Reed. Career Preparation is taught by Jackie Scoggins.



The Mount Pleasant High School Career Preparation class with Lowe's employees.



# WHAT WILL YOU BE AT NTCC?



You've got big goals for your future and NTCC is here to help you achieve them! Whether you want to launch a career or prepare for your dream university - you can start here and go anywhere!

**N** **NORTHEAST TEXAS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NTCC is an AA, ADA, Equal Opportunity Institution

903-434-8100  
[www.ntcc.edu](http://www.ntcc.edu)



# Tiger Roar

**Who is your favorite Christmas character?**

Page by Tigertalk Staff Writer Desiree Avila



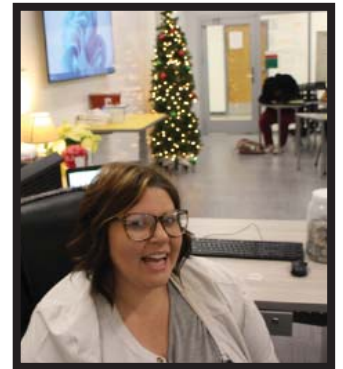
**"The Grinch"**  
-- Shanta Lockett



**"Santa Claus"**  
-- Kaylee Silman



**"Rudolph"**  
-- Amy Adams



**"Ralphie"**  
-- Mandy Hutchings



**"Clark Griswold"**  
-- Blake Rice



**"Charlie Brown"**  
-- Tommy Stewart



**"Cousin Eddie"**  
-- Karl Whitehurst



**"Jack Frost"**  
-- Mary Reeve



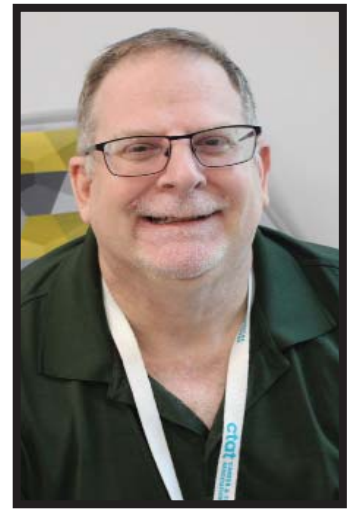
**"Buddy"**  
-- Cortney McCallum



**"The Grinch"**  
-- Tracy Porter



**"Cindy Lou"**  
-- Brianna Avellaneda



**"Buddy"**  
-- John Whitten