

Tigertalk



Prom Royalty
Kelcey Morris &
Morgan Brooks



Tiger Dolls
Spring Show



Valedictorian Ethan Harbour
Salutatorian Perla Guzman

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The MPHS chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) has selected officers for the 2023-2024 school year. Leading NHS are President Angelina Hernandez, Vice President Sophie Greco, Secretary Mea Banda, Treasurer Kiara Rundles, and Parliamentarian/Historian Jose Fuentes. From left are Jose Fuentes, Sophie Greco, Angelina Hernandez, Mea Banda and Kiara Rundles.

Tigertalk

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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 402 of the CATE Building.

Houchin named Teacher of the Year

By NOEMY DORANTES

Tigertalk Staff Writer

Every year MPHS selects a teacher of the year. For 2023, the campus teacher of the year is Kristi Houchin. Houchin is a Health Science Instructor and the CTE department head.

Houchin was born in Mount Pleasant. She attended NTCC as an undergraduate, as well as the University of Texas at Tyler, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Houchin teaches Practicum II-Patient CareTech along with Anatomy and Physiology. She was also swim coach for three years.

She is married to Chris Houchin, and together they have three children -- Makayla, Raegan, and Hayden.

Houchin said what she likes the most about teaching at MPHS is, "seeing my students succeed in practicum with passing their certification exams for PCT and CPT."

She says it feels rewarding to have received the honor from her peers of being chosen as the Teacher of the Year.

Hargrove is Employee of the Year

By ANA CEBALLOS

Tigertalk Staff Writer

High school principal secretary Kay Hargrove has been named 2023 Employee of the Year.

Hargrove, who was born in Houston, is married to Justin Hargrove and has two children. She has a son Devon and a daughter Madison. She also has a daughter-in-law named Raeleigh.

What she likes the most about working at MPHS is the exemplary administration staff and how they go above and beyond for their students.

Hargrove said "I love being able to see and interact with all of our students, members of the staff and com-

See Hargrove, Pg. 10



Houchin

The thing she likes the best about her job is, "seeing the growth of her students from the beginning of the year until the end." She also enjoys working with the Health Science teachers.

Hargrove is Employee of the Year



Hargrove

Harbour is 2023 valedictorian

By IDANIA CASTANON

Tigertalk Staff Writer

Becoming valedictorian is not something that comes easy just by showing up to school. It's something that is earned based on someone's performance throughout all four years of high school.

Ethan Harbour earned the honor as 2022-2023 valedictorian for the hard work that he has put in. Ethan is the son of Wendy and Eddie Harbour.

“Receiving this honor showed me that determination can get you anywhere in life,” Harbour said.

His parents and God are his role models, and he has striven to be a part of many activities. He was a part of NHS, NTHS, FBLA, UIL Math and Science, HOSA and was also recognized as a Texas Scholar.

Harbour said his motivation for success comes from having a competitive nature.

“I really enjoy learning new things and I have a competitive spirit,” Harbour said. “I want to be as prepared for college as I possibly can be.”

Harbour’s future plans include to attend Texas Tech University to major in Biology so that later he can become an otolaryngologist.

As well as being heavily involved in several school activities, he also received certificates and blanket awards for his academic performances. His awards included CCMA certification, EKG certification, CPR certification, and OSHA certification.

He received blankets for Pre-AP Geometry, Pre-AP Chemistry, Dual Credit Physics and Dual Credit Calculus. Despite having many awards for math, his most difficult class was AP Statistics, but his favorite class was Dual Credit Calculus.

“I had so many close friends in the class, and all of the content was extremely interesting and useful,” Harbour said.

His favorite memory of high school



Harbour plans to attend Texas Tech.

was playing spike ball with his friends at the senior social.

His advice for underclassmen is “take advanced classes and do your best. Never try to take a test without knowing the material.”

Some of the things that he liked being able to do in his free time were learning new things, playing spike ball, volleyball, gaming, playing guitar and playing chess.

Harbour said that something he wished he had done different include joining UIL his freshman year and becoming a more social person sooner.

Guzman is 2023 salutatorian

By IDANIA CASTANON

Tigertalk Staff Writer

Perla Guzman was named salutatorian for the MPHIS Class of 2023. She is the daughter of Santos and Claudia Guzman.

Perla plans to start her studies at Northeast Texas Community College before transferring to Texas A&M to major in biomedical sciences with hopes of becoming a pediatrician.

“To me, this honor reflects the hard work and dedication I invested in my academic career,” Guzman said.

Guzman was in many other extracurricular activities as well. She was involved in FBLA, Class secretary for 2020-2021, NHS treasurer, HOSA treasurer, Student Council, and NTHS.

“My success was motivated by my personal ambition and my strive to challenge myself and explore my potential,” Guzman said.

In order to reach the status of salutatorian, Guzman had to work hard and support. She credits her parents as her role models.

“They never pressured me to do something I didn’t want to do and have always supported me,” Guzman said. “Throughout my life, they have demonstrated that hard work is always rewarded.”

She was rewarded with many honors for putting in hard work in all her classes. She received academic blanket awards for Biology, AP Spanish Language and Culture, Practicum Health Science I, as well as one for government and economics.

Her favorite class that she took was Calculus and her hardest class was Dual Credit Physics.

The one thing that she wishes to have been able to do differently was to join UIL sooner and devote more



Guzman plans to start out at NTCC before transferring to Texas A&M.

time to it.

Her hobbies consist of reading, working on personal projects, and spending time with people that are important in her life.

One thing she advises for underclassmen is to “set your priorities straight and always persevere in any situation. Remember that a balance between academic and social life is possible.”

Class of 2023

Top 10 Percent Graduates



Ethan Harbour
Valedictorian



Perla Guzman
Salutatorian



Manoa Bagsic



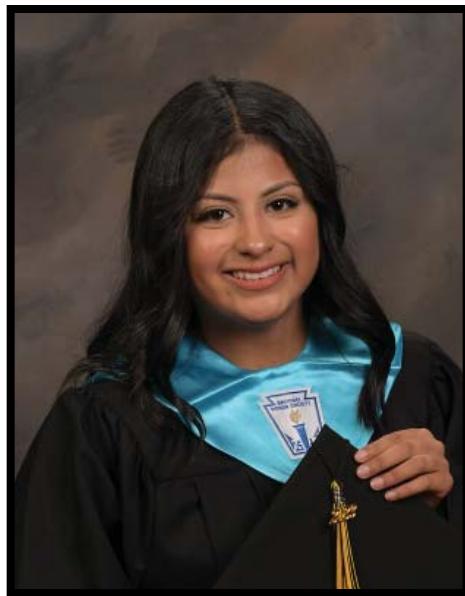
Reese Ball



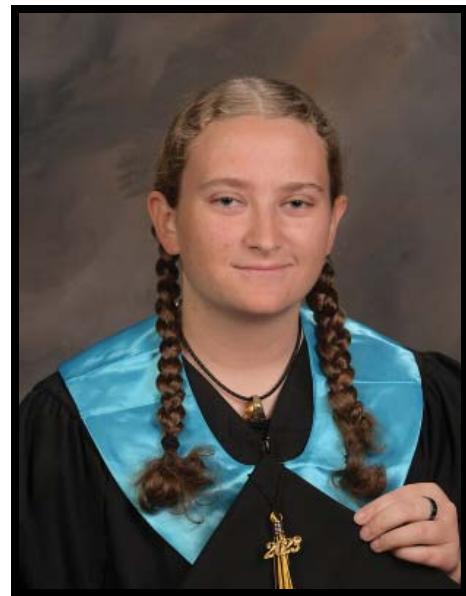
Vanessajane Bayna



Clayton Brison



Merlin Cardona



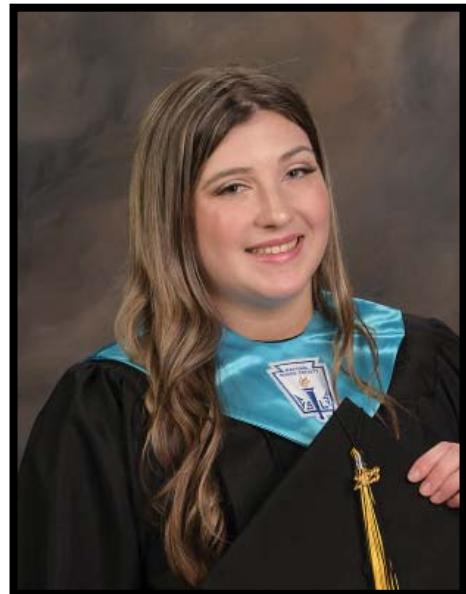
Madison Carpenter



Devin Castaneda



Payton Chism



Jenna Cook



Natalie Crockett



Norma Delgado



Paulina Diaz



Alexandra Estrada



Anna Kate Fisher



Isaac Hernandez



Natalie Hernandez



Karli Hill



Reagan Houchin



Kylie Humber



Camdon Johnson



Alison Majors



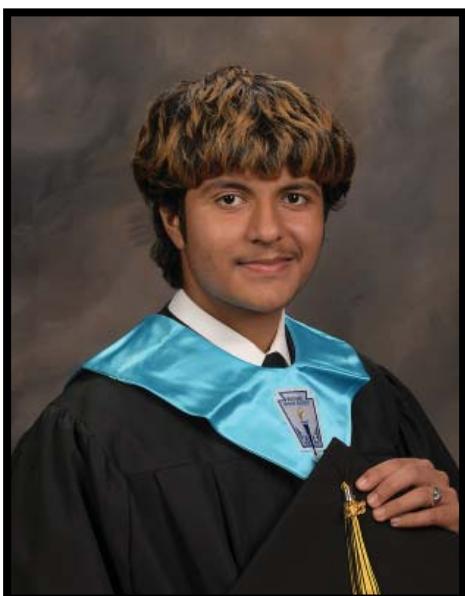
Samantha McClenan



Anthony Orellana



Madeline Plascencia



Param Poudel



Elijah Rider



Xitlali Rivas



Chris Russell



Fernanda Salazar



Camila Serrano



Jose Trejo



Melissa Vasquez



Amy Vazquez



Michelle Vazquez



Jack Welborn

Other 2023 Magna Cum Laude grads announced

Along with the Top 10 percent, a number of other students were also recognized as Magna Cum Laude honorees for Mount Pleasant High School.

A total of 36 MPHS seniors - in addition to the Top 10 percent - earned Magna Cum Laude recognition which means their grade point average was 5.62 and higher.

Those students with a grade point average of 6.0 and above and earning Magna Cum Laude honors include Chelsea Maldonado, Gyselle Lozano, Nancy Netro, Mauricio Farias Jr., Briana Sanchez, Wendy Alarcon, Adriana Orona, Caleb Whitten, Saul Alvarado and Chloe Carter.

Other Magna Cum Laude students with a GPA between 5.9 and 5.62 were Isabel Gonzales, Hannah Bowles, Heslie Castanon, Javier Vazquez, Luis Garcia, Gracelyn McClendon, Lizzette Ramirez, Cesar Flores, Emma Sellers, Jose Lopez, Lolita Solis, Kendall Walker, Jordyn Hargrave, Madison Craig, Marcela Mata, Kimberly Pina, Esmeralda Ramirez, Pilar Gonzalez, Jackie Gonzalez, Nayeli Jaimes, Paris Beard, Arenia Tigert, Juanita Gutierrez, Nayeli Rivera, Daniela Palomo and Raul Vazquez.

Hargrove from Page 3

munity. No two days are the same, every day brings something new.”

Hargrove said she enjoys being able to work in a new building and seeing all of the newly remodeled facilities. Hargrove, who has worked for the district 11 years, said one of the biggest challenges in her job is not only learning new faces but saying goodbye to all the familiar ones as they begin a new chapter.

Hargrove feels honored to be selected for his recognition by such hardworking staff.

“We are blessed with such a hardworking staff. I am so proud and honored to be selected by them,” she said.



FBLA National Qualifiers from left are Olivia Reed, Kiara Rundles, Javier Vasquez, Madison Carpenter, Anthony Orellana, Eli Rider, Natalie Crockett, Hope Powell, Reese Ball and Advisor John Whitten. Not pictured are Mea Banda, Madeline Plascencia and Sophie Greco.

FBLA students qualify for Nationals

Fifty-five Mount Pleasant High School members of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competed at the State Leadership Conference in Galveston on March 22-24 with 11 students qualifying for Nationals and one additional student named an alternate.

Those advancing to Nationals, their events, and their places at state include:

American Enterprise Project: Madeline Plascencia, Kiara Rundles, and Javier Vasquez (2nd place)

Broadcast Journalism: Madison Carpenter, Anthony Orellana, and Elijah Rider (1st place)

Healthcare Administration: Natalie Crockett (1st place)

Future Business Leader: Hope Powell (4th place)

Hospitality and Event Management: Reese Ball, Sophie Greco, and Olivia Reed (4th place)

Client Service: Mea Banda (alternate—5th place) Banda will compete at Nationals after one of the top four decided not to compete.

In addition, the following students advanced to state finals in their respective events:

Data Analysis: Oscar Castellanos, Joel Palacios, and Andrew Perez

Intro to Public Speaking: Gopi Amin

Mobile App Development: Abby Phelan, Yahaira Pina, and Jose Fuentes

Social Media Strategies: Genesis Aguilar, Estefani Garcia, and Cecilia Phan

MPHS was recognized as the largest FBLA chapter in Area 6. Junior Sophie Greco, was elected State Area IV Vice President, the second state officer in MPHS chapter history.

Junior Angelina Hernandez, was recognized as Area VI President and sophomore,

Gopi Amin, as Area VI Parliamentarian.

Senior Reese Ball, was named Who's Who for the Mount Pleasant High School chapter. And Chapter Advisor, John Whitten, was recognized for service to the Board of Directors.

"We had another banner year at state with 11 students advancing to Nationals, including taking first place in two different events," said Whitten. "Our students are going up against schools of all sizes, including many larger districts, but they still showed their resiliency to compete against the highest competition."

Whitten continued, "Our students have been working since October preparing for this moment and to see their hopes and hard work come to fruition brings such satisfaction to me as an advisor.

See FBLA, Pg. 13

Pg. 11 *Tigertalk*

Seniors announce future plans

By IDANIA CASTANON
and ALAN BARRIENTOS
Tigertalk Staff Writers

As the 2022-2023 school year comes to a close, 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.

Melanie De la Cruz --- I will be attending Texas State University and plan to major in child physiology.

Malazia Batiste --- Attend UT Tyler in the fall of 2023, and major in nursing.

Isabel Gonzales --- Attend NTCC, then transfer to PT program at a university and major in Kinesiology.

Xitlali Rivas --- Acquire my basics from NTCC, then transfer to UT Tyler to study Kinesiology plus Exercise science and gain PTA certification.

Jackie Rodriguez --- Going to UT Tyler + getting either an associate's degree in nursing or my BSN to be a NICU nurse.

Natalie Hernandez --- After graduation, I plan on attending Northeast Texas Community College to obtain an associate's degree in nursing then transfer to UT Tyler in hopes of graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in nursing.

Perla Guzman --- Start my studies at NTCC then transfer to Texas A&M to complete a Bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences.

Ethan Harbour --- I will attend Texas Tech University for four years and major in Biology. Then I will attend medical school to become an otolaryngologist.

Jenna Cook --- Attend the University of Arkansas and major in exercise science on a Pre-Med track in hopes



Malazia Batiste



Isabel Gonzalez



Karli Hill



Saul Alvarado

of eventually becoming an emergency physician.

Karli Hill --- I will be attending NTCC to complete my associates. I will then transfer to another college and obtain my bachelors in Radiology.

Gyselle Lozano --- Finish basics at NTCC then transfer to a university where I will finish the PTA program and begin working as a physical therapist assistant.

Saul Alvarado Jr --- I'm

planning on going to NTCC for my basics and then transfer to UT Tyler.

Paulina Diaz --- I will attend Stephen F. Austin State University, and will major in Biology.

Madeline Plascencia --- I will attend Texas Tech University and major in biology. Then, I will further my education and attend medical school to become an anesthesiologist.

See Seniors, Page 13

Seniors from Page 12

Analisa Lopez – Work at Kim's

Alexandra Estrada – I plan to attend Tyler Junior College and major in Sonography.

Merlin Cardona – I plan to attend Tyler Junior College and major in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Kayla Hernandez – I plan to go to college to pursue a career in Criminal Justice.

Marcela Mata – I plan to attend Penn State University to major in Criminology. #Golions

Lauren Mata – Plans to attend NTCC for her Nail Technician license.

Caleb Whitten – He plans to attend the University of Cincinnati and major in archaeology.

Humberto Noe Ramirez – He plans to go to NTCC.

Nayeli Rivera – She plans to go to the Army and do college at the same time.

Ilse Ojendis – She plans to get her basics done at NTCC first then transferring to Texas A&M Commerce to pursue a career in Social Work.

Luis Garcia – He plans to work during the summer and then go to college to major in Music.

Michelle Vazquez – She plans to attend the University of Texas at Tyler and major in Biology to pursue her dream of becoming a dentist.

Richard Rodriguez – He plans to attend NTCC and possibly work at Home De-



Caleb Whitten



Ilse Ojendis

pot.

Natalie Crockett -- Attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in Biochemistry.

Jayleen Martinez – She plans to attend Southern Arkansas University to major in Social Work.

Kaitlyn Castillo – She plans to attend Texas A&M University in Texarkana for her teachers degree.

Jordyn Warren - She plans to attend NTCC and then transfer to Loyola University so she can earn an MBA/MSM in marketing.

Audrie Mendoza – After graduation, she plans to keep working and start at NTCC in the fall.

Mary Reeve – She plans to attend Sam Houston State University and major in Business Administration.



Luis Garcia



Mary Reeve

FBLA from Page 11

The work that the students have put in has resulted in them in being rewarded with experiencing FBLA Nationals in Atlanta. Expectations are high for students, and I am so proud of all of those that competed and looking forward to seeing what our national qualifiers can accomplish.”

The FBLA National Leadership Conference is set for June 25-July 1, 2023 in Atlanta, GA.

MPHS FBLA advisors are John Whitten, Shanta Lockett, and Brian Williams.

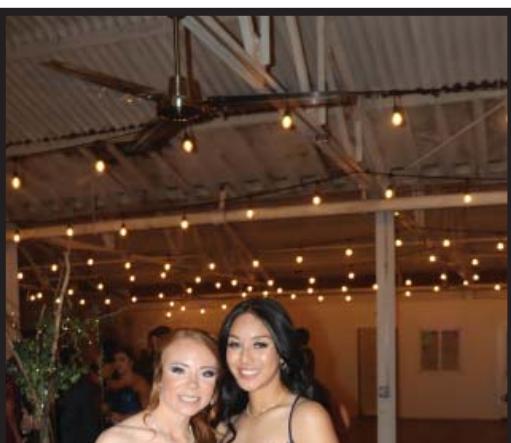
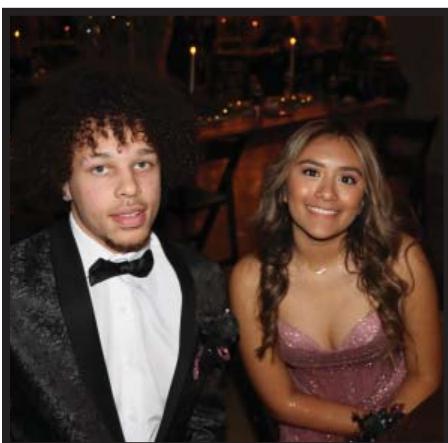
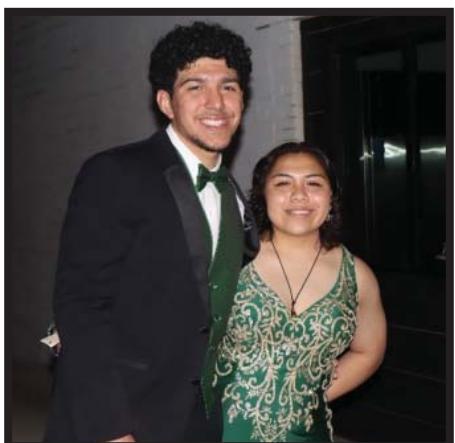
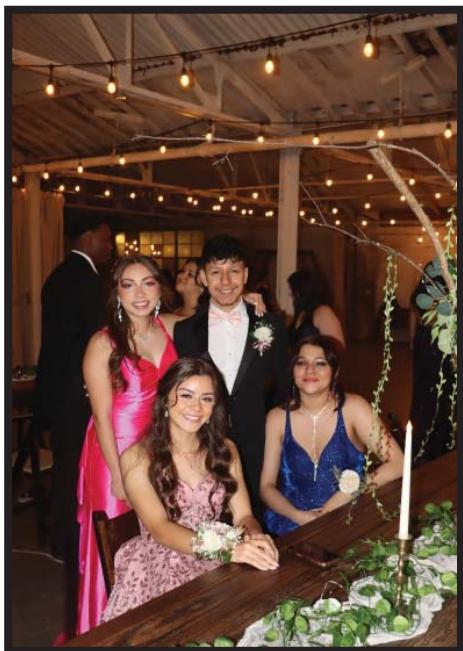
Prom 2023

A Midsummer Night's Dream



Prom King Kelcey Morris
and Prom Queen Morgan Brooks





Two golfers advance to state

Two members of the Tiger golf team played in the Regional tournament at the Rockwall Golf and Athletic Club on April 19-20.

Both have advanced to the 5A State tournament in May.

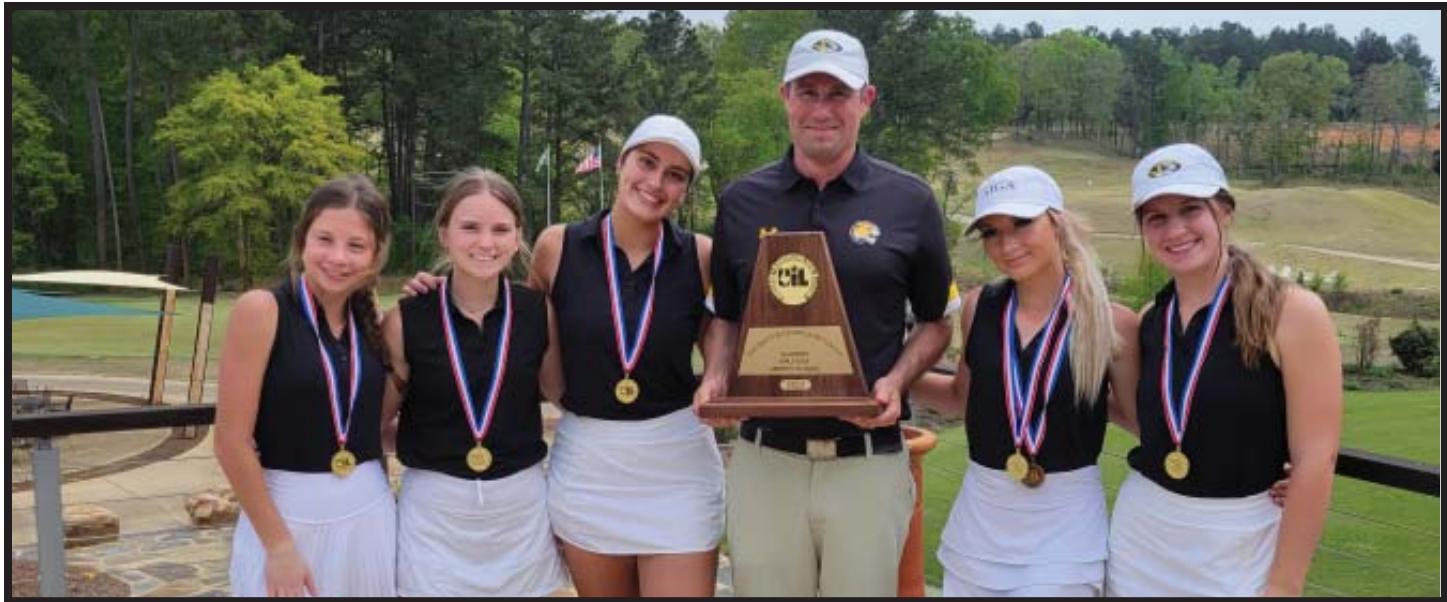
Senior Matthew Peterson, finished in 3rd place with a two-day total of 150 with freshman, Jacob Baker, finishing tied for 6th with a 154, advancing both to State. In addition, both Peterson and Baker were chosen for the All-Region golf team.

"This is the first time I've had two golfers on the same team make it to the state tournament," said MPHS Golf coach, Benny Blaser. "It's hard enough to get one golfer there, but two is an incredible achievement for Matthew and Jacob. I'm a very proud coach knowing that two of the best golfers in the state of Texas play here at Mt Pleasant!"

The 5A UIL State golf tournament will be played at White Wing Golf Course in Georgetown on May 22-23.



From left are Jacob Baker, Coach Benny Blaser and Matthew Peterson.



District Champions

The Lady Tigers golf team won the district title for the first time in at least 18 years. Picture from left to right are Caroline Currey, Olivia Reed, Sophie Greco, Coach Benny Blaser, Kylee Strickland and Reese Ball.

Six athletes sign scholarships



Payton Chism signs with Collin College to play basketball.



Kelcey Morris signs with North American University to play football and basketball.



Xavier Hills signs with Umpqua Community College to run track.



Geovanni Calderon signs with Jacksonville University to run track and cross country.



Dana Memije signs with Texas A&M-Texarkana to play soccer.



Morgan Brooks signs with UT-Tyler to cheer next school year.



Pictured are Academic Blanket Winners
Academic Blankets awarded

Sixty-five Mount Pleasant High School students were presented Academic Blanket Awards for having the highest overall average in his or her respective subject in a ceremony in the newly renovated MPHS auditorium on Thursday May 11.

Those 65 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 many 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 afternoon to present the awards to the students.

Those awarded Academic Blankets and the sponsoring businesses included:

Wendy Alarcon—Accounting (McGuire-Dyke CPAs); Chloe Carter—Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (American National Bank); Ethan Easley—Ag Mechanics (Priefert); Emma Sellers—Agriscience (Titus County Fair Association); Margarita Salinas—Algebra I (Cypress Bank); Luke Thurman—Algebra II (Thurman's Pro-Med Pharmacy); Kimberly Pina—Anatomy & Physiology (Titus Dental Care); Wendy Carrillo—Animal Science (Mt. Pleasant Pet Resort); Silvia Sustaita—Art (Phil and Jennifer Scudder); Orion Senence—Band (US Pet Foods); Alberto Avila—Biology (Pleasant Smiles Dental);

Camdon Johnson—AP Biology (Titus Regional Medical Center); Evelyn Montreal—Business Information Management (Patrick Redfearn Realty); Ethan Harbour—Calculus (Denney Land Surveying); Jacqueline Rodriguez—Career Preparation (Hampton Inn and Suites); Gopi Amin—Chemistry (Manish

Amin Enterprises)

Litzy Gonzalez—Choir (Greater Hope Church of God in Christ); Alejandro Castro—Communications (Republic Services); Samuel Molina—Construction Technology (Stansell Construction); Pilar Gonzalez—Cosmetology (Emma Flores Insurance); Micah Shepherd—Culinary Arts (Luigi's Fine Italian); Alexis Agnew—Dance (CrossFit Tico); Lizeth Navarro—Education & Training (AA Treehouse Learning Center); Brian Ayala—Electrical Technology (Marmon Industrial Energy and Infrastructure);

Carlos Buitron—Engineering (Stephenson Dirt Contracting); Audrey Fisher—English I (Sisk Motors); Samuel Chappell—English II (MP Pack N' Mail); Sophie Greco—English III (Medical and Surgery Dermatology Center of Northeast Texas); Fernanda Salazar—AP English IV (Pilot Club); Anthony Orellana—Dual Credit English IV (Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant); Natalie Crockett—Environmental Science (Guaranty Bank); Mason McMinn—Environmental Systems (Cowan Inspection); Jillian Jetton—Fashion Design (Mayben Realty); Stephanie Hernandez—Forensic Science (Tumey Mortuary); Julian Chancellor—Geometry (Shumate Floor Covering); Perla Guzman—Government & Economics (Lions Club of Mount Pleasant); Elizabeth Buck—Health Science Theory (The Pediatric Clinic); Araceli Landaverde—Instructional Practice in Education (East Texas Professional Credit Union); Nathali Rojas—Journalism Newspaper (Brookshire's); Mary Reeve—Journalism Yearbook (Redfearn Real Estate); Tawny Swanson—Law Enforcement (Vera Bank); Kit Thompson—Marketing Education (East Texas Children's Dentistry); Michael Carrero Villan-

See Blankets, Pg. 19



MPHS UIL Academic Regional medalists

Six qualify for UIL State Meet

The Mount Pleasant High School UIL Academic team competed in the Region II 5A UIL Academic Meet on April 22 at the University of Texas at Arlington. Overall, 6 MPHS students have advanced to the State Meet.

Team members advancing to State include:
Social Studies (1st place team) — Vanes-sajane Bayna 1st place, Estven Perez 4th place, Yahir Garcia, and Jeisy Munoz

Spelling — Isabel Gonzales 2nd place

Calculator Applications — Nathaniel Martinez 3rd place

Also placing at Regionals were Anthony Orellana (6th place Persuasive Speaking),

Madeline Tumey-Simmons (6th place Poetry), the Spelling team of Isabel Gonzales, Sophie Greco, Angelina Hernandez, and Natalie Crockett (3rd place team), and the Calculator Applications team of Nathaniel Martinez, Param Poudel (4th place), Devin Castaneda, and Isaac Hernandez (2nd place team).

Advancing teams and individuals will compete at the UIL State Academic Meet to be held May 17-18 at The University of Texas at Austin. State qualifying coaches are Gina Crouch (Spelling), Leanne Blalock (Social Studies), and Osias Hernandez (Calculator Applications).

Blankets from Page 18

ueva—Math Models (1st Texas Financial Services)

Mauricio Farias—Music Theory (MP Rentals); Kylie Humber—Patient Care Tech (Robert Sikes DDS); Vanessajane Bayna—Physics (Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce); Param Poudel—Physics C (Diamond C Trailers); Suhey Lopez—Piano (Higginbotham Insurance); Tisha Patel—Practicum in Health Science Technology I (Cypress Basin Hospice); Madeline Plascencia—Practicum in Health Science Technology II (Arnold Walker Arnold); Nathaniel Martinez—Pre-Calculus (Warrior Tax); Paris Beard—Scientific Research & Design (Elliott Auto Group); Dylan Ramirez—Spanish I Bilingual (Suzie Castillo, Realtor Lighthouse Realty); Kayleigh Mar-

tin—Spanish I Monolingual (Texas A&M Texarkana); Diego Ugalde—Spanish II Bililingual (Pilgrim Bank); John Freeman—Spanish II Monolingual (Sandlin Motors); Yahaira Pina—Spanish III Monolingual (Northeast Texas Community College); Jose Fuentes—AP Spanish Language (Baker and Johnson CPA); Noemy Dorantes—AP Spanish Literature (Diamond C Trailers); Raegan Houchin—Sports Medicine (Texas Bragg Trailers); Clinton Debord—Statistics (NETX Blinds and More); Daniela Palomo—Theatre (Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce); Ella Cross—US History (Texas Best Realty); Brisilia Alvarez—World Geography (Stephenson Dirt Contracting) and Amir Martinez—World History (Elliott Auto Group).

Spring Show recognizes 60 years of Tiger Dolls





Ayala finishes second at state in electrical construction wiring

Six Mount Pleasant High School Electrical Technology students attended the Texas SkillsUSA State Conference in Corpus Christi on March 30-April 1.

Five students competed in Construction Wiring, National Electrical Code Testing, and Technical Information Testing while one student made the trip as a Voting Delegate.

In the Construction Wiring competition, senior Brian Ayala placed 2nd. Competitors had to take a National Electrical Code test and are given six hours to complete the wiring and conduit diagrams.

In addition, they each had to participate in an interview with their resume. Ayala has received a scholarship to attend Texas State Technical College and also had job offers from three large Electrical Companies that attended the contest as he was wiring. All three companies offered to pay for his education and employment.

Also competing for MPHS were seniors Humberto Ramirez and Angel Nava in National Electrical Code Testing and senior Jeremiah Segovia with junior Eduardo Solis in Technical Information Testing.

Pg. 22 *Tigertalk*



Ayala, left, and Electrical Technology teacher Tim Davis could attend and see just how challenging these Industry Lead SkillsUSA State contests are,"

Senior Juan Serna represented District 5 as a Voting Delegate and attended a business meeting to elect officers for the SkillsUSA organization.

"I wish more people

could attend and see just how challenging these Industry Lead SkillsUSA State contests are," said MPHS Electrical Technology instructor, Tim Davis. "No words can express how proud we are of our MP students. Many evenings are spent after school preparing for contest."

2023-2024 drum majors announced

The Mount Pleasant High School Goin' Gold Band held Drum Major auditions recently.

Leading the band during the 2023-2024 school year are Head Drum Major Shpat Zeqaj with Assistant Drum Majors Orion Senence and Jose Fuentes.

Section Leaders for 2023-2024 include Flutes (Bianca Quistian, Jennifer Pena, Amy Santillan), Trumpets (Orion Senence), Clarinets (Andrew Perez, Araceli Solis, Neftali Gonzalez), Saxophones (Zoe Newman, Suhey Lopez), Baritones (Bruno Deleon, Ahilin Hernandez), Tubas (Ayden Padilla), and Percussion (Luke Thurman).

The 2023 Marching Band show is titled "Wednesday" from the hit Netflix series by the same name, a modern interpretation of The Addams Family, featuring the recognizable theme song and music by Bach, Metallica, the Rolling Stones and The Cramps.



From left are 2023-2024 Drum Majors Senence, Zeqah and Flores.

Tiger Dolls name new officers, sergeants

The MPHS Tiger Dolls held tryouts for Officer and Sergeant positions on Friday, May 5 in the Tiger Doll room at Mount Pleasant High School.

The Tiger Doll Officers for the 2023-2024 school year are Captain Genevieve Rubio, Senior Lieutenant Makayla Spigner, and Junior Lieutenant Jalyssa Aguilar.

New Sergeants include Audrey Fisher (Head Sergeant), Violet Castaneda, Haley Garcia, Jamie Garrett, Valeria Vega, and Morgan Zepeda.

The Tiger Dolls are under the direction of Jaton Broach.



Front row from left are Senior Lieutenant Makayla Spigner, Captain Genevieve Rubio, and Junior Lieutenant Jalyssa Aguilar. Back row from left are Sergeants Morgan Zepeda, Violet Castaneda, Audrey Fisher (Head Sergeant), Valeria Vega, Haley Garcia and Jamie Garrett.

Health Science holds pinning ceremony

Mount Pleasant High School held its very first pinning ceremony for Health Science program students who have completed certifications in Phlebotomy, Patient Care, EKG, and/or Medical Assisting. The ceremony was conducted in the MPHS auditorium on Thursday, April 27.

Senior Camdon Johnson offered the opening prayer followed by MPHS Career and Technology Director, Karl Whitehurst, with opening remarks. And senior, Anthony Orellana, served as the announcer for the evening.

Health Science teacher, Kristi Houchin, awarded completion cords and pinned the Certified Phlebotomy Techs and the Certified Patient Care Tech Assistants as well as the previous years Certified EKG Technicians. Phlebotomy Techs perform the following tasks to aid in patient care - venipunctures, explaining procedures and making patients feel comfortable during lab draws, performing Point of Care (POC) testing, preparing specimens for testing, and maintaining medical lab equipment. Certified Patient Care Technician-Assistants assist with activities of daily living (ADLs), routinely check on patients to maintain safety and wellness, and perform EKGs.

Receiving those cords and pins were Lizbeth Alvarez, Malazia Batiste, Paris Black, Yasmin Castaneda, Rachel Cato, Maria Colin, Madison Craig, Melanie De La Cruz, Chelsea Dowden, Alexandra Estrada, Blanca Gallegos Cruz, Betzaida Garcia, Isabel Gonzalez, Miranda Gonzalez, Sandy Guerrero, Benjamin Gutierrez, Sandy Hernandez, Kylie Humber, Jose Lopez, Alison Majors, Zulma Mejia, Roselyn Molina, Viridiana Portillo, Anthony Ramirez, Lizzette Ramirez, Tiffany Rangel, Dulce Rivera, Briana Sanchez, Melissa Vasquez, and I'yana Williams.

Health Science teacher Mandy Hutchings awarded completion cords and pinned the Certified Clinical Medical Assistants as well as the previous years Certified EKG Technicians. A Cer-



Certified Clinical Medical Assistants



Certified Patient Care Tech Assistants



Certified EKG Technicians

tified Clinical Medical Assistant works in a physician's office. They schedule appointments, verify insurance, take patient history and chief complaint, vitals, assist the physician with exams and in office surgeries, administer injections, perform phlebotomy skills, and perform an in office EKG and identify abnormal readings. CCMA's work directly with physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

Being a CCMA allows you to work anywhere in the United States as it is a national certification. Cord and pin recipients included Saul Alvarado, Andrea Anguiano, Giselle Castillo, Jenna Cook, Natalie Crockett, Norma Delgado, Paulina Diaz,

Lincoln Ellis, Isabel Gonzalez, Perla Guzman, Ethan Harbour, Nora Hardwick, Natalie Hernandez, Karli Hill, Alison Jimenez, Camdon Johnson, Gyselle Lozano, Kali Marshall, Madeline Plascencia, Elijah Rider, Xitlali Rivas, Jacqueline Rodriguez, Goten Russell, Kandice Salas, Camila Serrano, Evan Shelley, Galilea Torres, Jose Trejo, Amy Vazquez, Javier Vazquez, and Michelle Vazquez.

Health Science teachers Sarah Carrell and Courtney McCallum pinned those who have tested and are credentialled Certified EKG Technicians. Other students listed are scheduled for testing in the upcoming weeks.

See Pinning, Pg. 25

Fishing team qualifies for state tourney

Two MPHS Fishing teams were back on the water on April 15 at Cedar Creek for the Texas High School Bass Association (THSBA) Regional tournament. MPHS qualified one team for the state tournament.

Junior Clayton Miller and sophomore Rolston Morton with Boat Captain Randy Hinton finished in 8th place out of 215 teams. They pulled in 4 fish weighing 13.03 lbs., advancing them to state. Miller and Morton each received a \$500 scholarship and a \$100 gift card from Lee's Strike King.

Also competing at the regional tournament was senior Will Luck who pulled in one fish weighing 1.93 lbs.

Miller and Morton will represent MPHS at the THSBA State Tournament to be held at the Sam Rayburn Reservoir on May 20-21.



From left are Miller and Morton.

Palma places third in TPSA state event

Four MPHS students competed at the Texas Public Safety Association (TPSA) state contest in Allen.

Senior Jazmine Palma placed 3rd at state in Fingerprint Collection and Analysis. Also competing at state were senior Lolita Solis in Fire Search and Rescue and juniors Araceli Landaverde and Luis Bernardino in Law Enforcement Agility Course.

MPHS offers a four-year program of study in Public Safety including Principles of Public Safety, Law Enforcement I, Law Enforcement II, and Forensic Science. TPSA advisors are Elizabeth Bailey, Sadonna Parker, and James Nelson.



TPSA state competitors from left are Luis Bernardino, Jazmine Palma, Lolita Solis and Araceli Landaverde.

Pinning from Page 24

Those students were Genesis Aguilar, Ashley Almeida, Jordan Andrade, Briana Chavez, Kaylee Connally, Ella Cross, Gema Del Rosario Amaro, Analee Escalante, Jarely Esguerra, Alexa Gamble, Estefani Garcia, Javier Garcia, Aguirre Garza, Isari Gonzalez, Sherlyn Gonzalez, Takahashi Gutierrez, Ahilin Hernandez, Jesus Hernandez, Breanda Hernandez, Morgan Hill, Yvonne Huerta, Casey Jones, Kaira Leija, Silvia Lopez, Arely Lopez, Jocelyn Marroquin, Harley Martin, Nathaniel Martinez, Yalit Mata, Mariana Mendez, Stephanie Mendez, Erika Mickens, Emilee Miles, Amariya Miller, Saniya Milton, Angel Munoz, Alyssa Narvaez, Cecilia

Olmos, Genesis Organista, Jinnely Padilla, Tisha Patel, Johana Perales, Estven Perez, Cecilia Phan, Katherine Plata, Hope Powell, Andrianna Price, Bianca Quistian, Charis Ramirez, Kaitlyn Reese, Jacqueline Reyes, Naomy Rivera, Richard Rodriguez, Miriam Rojas, Evelyn Sandoval, Mariana Sandoval, Joseph Tolentino, Jonathan Turner, Shakira Valentin, Jacqueline Varela, Diana Vargas, Perla Vazquez, Conlee Zachry, Shpat Zeqaj, and Beverly Zuniga.

In all, 61 students received recognition for at least one certification that will follow them after high school and allow them to work in the medical field immediately after graduation.

20 Questions with Coach Stewart

By DESIREE AVILA
Tigertalk Staff Writer

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

This issue spotlights Mr. Tommy Stewart, who is the head baseball coach.

1. How long have you been coaching at MPHS?

This is my second year here at MPHS.

2. What motivates you to keep coaching? And why?

I love teaching the game and being a good influence on the students. It's the Christian thing to do.

3. What's your favorite sports movie of all time? Why?

My favorite sports movie would have to be Major League, because its really funny.

4. If you could coach any other sport what would it be? Why?

I would coach football, because I really love football.

5. What do you enjoy the most about MPHS? Why?

I enjoy the great facilities and the great people I work with.

6. If you could see any sports team in person, who would it be? Why?

I would see the Green Bay Packers, because they're my favorite team.

7. What's your favorite memory from coaching baseball?

Coaching in the state championship. In Mount Pleasant, Keller Thompson hit a walk off home run in the bottom of the 9th to beat Texas High.

8. What encourages you to keep learning about your religion?

I want to see my kids strive and be better people. Also, to help this struggling world.



Stewart's favorite sports movie is Major League.

9. What's your favorite Bible verse? Why?

Proverbs 3: 5-6, because it's the foundation of what we should do.

10. If you could do anything other than coaching, what would it be? Why?

I would go back and make it to the big leagues, so I would have a platform to help others.

11. What do you like to do during your free time?

I love coaching my son's team, hunt, fish, also work on the ranch.

12. Is there anything in life that you haven't accomplished?

There are many, many, many things

13. What advice would you give to someone who is trying out for baseball?

Just work hard, try your best, and play with no fear.

14. If you could go to any concert, who would you pick? Why?

Chris Stapleton, because I think he's a generational talent.

15. What are you looking forward to in the future?

I look forward to seeing my kid's future.

16. What is your favorite memory from growing up?

My favorite memory from growing up is playing football at Dangerfield.

17. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be? Why?

Israel and the surrounding areas, I would like to visit the area of the world where Jesus lived.

18. What was your favorite class in high school? Why?

Algebra, because I liked math and problem solving. Plus, I'm secretly a nerd.

19. If you won the lottery, what would you do with your money?

If I won the lottery, I would buy some more land, build a church, and search for ways to help others.

20. What are your goals as a coach for each year?

To help as many players to get on the right track in life. help develop my players to the highest levels they can individually play.

And to win.

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!

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Tiger Roar

What is your favorite memory of high school?

Page by Tigertalk Co-Editor Nathali Rojas and Isaiah Rodarte



“Freshman year on the band bus when we were all laughing and having a good time.”

-- Mary Reeve, 12



“During yearbook class when we would all stress to meet deadlines.”

-- Luis Garcia, 12



“Going on soccer trips and competing in FBLA.”

-- Jordyn Warren, 12



“Riding around College Station for UIL in the big Ford Expedition.”

-- Eli Rider, 12



“Junior year lunch table”

-- Kayla Hernandez, 12



“Staying home during COVID.”

-- Richard Rodriguez, 12

“My friends that stayed with me.”

-- Ky Gil, 12



“Making jokes about big Ford Expeditions.”

-- Anthony Orellana, 12



“Going on the state FBLA trip. I had lots of fun with all my friends and just overall a great time!”

-- Marcela Mata, 12



“Capturing every moment through the lens of my phone, so much so that I have captured 16,000 pictures and videos throughout my four years of high school.”

-- Javier Vazquez, 12



“Going on school trips, hearing everyone laugh and have fun rather than sit in a classroom. Especially those culinary trips with my class. I will forever cherish those moments.”

-- Esmeralda Ramirez, 12



“Going to Houston for theater clinic. I was able to go with friends and experience traveling with my theater family.”

-- Nayeli Rivera, 12