

Tigertalk

Tiger athletes sign to compete in college



Inside: State Bound



FBLA

Volume 49



HOSA

Issue 3



FCCLA

March 2024

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MPHS Winter Guard members compete at a recent event. For more on the Winter Guard, see Page 10.

Tigertalk

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FBLA had a record 72 students qualify for the state conference.

FBLA qualifes 72 for state

By IDANIA CASTANON
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The high school's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) has qualified a school record of 72 students for state this year, as the organization continues to grow by leaps and bounds.

The organization went from 68 members a year ago to 92 this year and is now the ninth-largest chapter in the state of Texas and the biggest in Area 6.

At the Area 6 Leadership Conference, 72 of 76 students placed in the top four to advance to state in Galveston on April 10-12. Students now turn their sights toward preparing for state and hopefully qualifying for Nationals to be held in Orlando, Fla. this summer.

Senior Angelina Hernandez, who serves as Area 6 president, said she has gained lots of leadership skills through FBLA.

"Being the Area 6 officer allowed me to connect with individuals from other schools and listen to their needs as a chapter," Hernandez said. "Additionally, it gave me the opportunity to create a social media page to ensure that all Area 6 schools could interact at one spot."

Being Area 6 president does result in having a lot of responsibility for Hernandez. One of the best things for her is having the ability to make FBLA an organization that is fun and open to anyone.

The hardest thing she said is "Learning to accept that you cannot always help everyone out like you want to! Although I had bigger plans for the area, being able to connect with every school and asses their total needs is tough to do in one year."

For those wishing to join FBLA, Hernandez offers some advice for prospective new members.

"I would tell them to not procrastinate their FBLA work and to pick an event that you can grow in," Hernandez said. "This makes it easier to reach the highest levels FBLA had to offer."

Another leader in the MPHS FBLA organization is Sophie Greco. She is representing Area 6 as the FBLA state vice president.

"Being the Area 6 state VP had been such a rewarding experience," Greco said. "I've been able to meet new people, enhance my leadership skills, and be a part of a community that has had an impact on so many. It had truly become one of my favorite high



Greco speaks at the Area 6 Conference.

school experiences"

One of the hardest things about having this responsibility she said is "Constantly wondering whether I'm doing it correctly and collaborating with other officers across Texas. Since I'm only the 2nd state officer from Mount Pleasant, a lot of my positions had been a learning curve."

But there are also good things besides the hardship that may come with such responsibility.

"The best thing about having this responsibility is meeting so many new people and having the ability to enact change in an organization that is foundational to students across the nation." Greco said.

Sophie's advice to those wanting to become new members of

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FBLA from Page 4

FBLA is “Take the time to discover what you love and be open to new opportunities because you never know where it might lead you.”

In addition to competing, MPHS senior and FBLA Area VI President, Angelina Hernandez, was named the 2023-2024 Who’s Who Area 6 Recipient. Junior, Gopi Amin, was elected the FBLA Area VI President with sophomore Alessandro Greco named the FBLA Area VI Parliamentarian for 2024-2025. MPHS is currently the 9th largest chapter in the entire state of Texas.

Students advancing to state, their area placement, and event are as follows:

- Advertising-Hayden Tennison (2nd)
- Agribusiness-Xitlaly Sanchez (4th)
- American Enterprise-Gopi Amin, Sophie Greco, and Kiara Rundles (1st)
- Business Calculations-Luke Thurman (1st)
- Business Calculations-Tanner Marshall (2nd)
- Business Calculations-Christopher Sorto (4th)
- Business Communications-Briana Gonzales (2nd)
- Business Ethics-Dalia Balderas, Roselynn Ramirez and Sabrina Otero-Sviriska (2nd)
- Business Ethics-MyKaela King, Jennifer Luna and Leinad Rodriguez (1st)
- Business Law-Alessandro Greco (2nd)
- Business Law-Abigail Retana (3rd)
- Client Service-Mea Banda (1st)
- Computer Problem Solving-Caparis Smith (3rd)
- Cybersecurity-Jazlynn Juarez (2nd)
- Cybersecurity-Jessica Hang(4th)
- Data Analysis-Joel Palacios, Oscar Castellanos, and Andrew Perez (2nd)
- Digital Video Production-Alondra Santos and Esmeralda Perez (1st)
- Financial Statement Analysis-John Freeman, Shpat Zeqaj and Nathan Martinez (1st)
- Future Business Leader-Hope Powell (1st)
- Graphic Design-Jillian Jetton, Jocelyn Marroquin and McKinsee Oviedo (1st)
- Healthcare Administration-Kaylee Connally (1st)
- Healthcare Administration-Brissia Alvarez (2nd)
- Help Desk-Rafael Calderon (1st)
- Hospitality and Event Mgt.-Diya Desai, Patricia Gonzalez, and Frankie Rodriguez (1st)
- Human Resource Management-Idania Castanon (1st)
- Insurance and Risk Management-Addison Heeren (1st)
- Intro to Business Presentation-Angel Farias, Anthony Gonzalez, and Bruno Deleon (1st)
- Intro to Financial Math-Emily Ortiz (1st) Intro to Financial Math-Cooper Rider (2nd)
- Intro to Social Media Strategy-Terrelle Beard, Amaya McQueen, and Khloe Cooper (1st)
- Introduction to Business Communications-Charity Prater (2nd)
- Introduction to Business Concepts-Alba Zeqaj (2nd)
- Introduction to Business Concepts-Erick Bernardi (3rd)
- Job Interview-Harley Martin (1st)
- Journalism-Joseline Almazan (2nd)
- Journalism-Nathali Rojas (3rd)
- Marketing-Raquel Garza, Yadira Martinez, and Mariana Mendez

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Hernandez was Who’s Who winner for Area 6.



New area officers Alessandro Greco, left, and Gopi Amin, right, with Mr. Whitten, FBLA advisor.

- (1st)
- Mobile Application Development-Aloani Laboy (1st)
- Organization Leadership-Natalia Aspeitia (1st)
- Personal Finance-Jennifer Pena (3rd)
- Public Service Announcement-Evelyn Hernandez (2nd)
- Public Speaking-Angelina Hernandez (1st)
- Social Media Strategies-Genesis Aguilar, Estefani Garcia, and Cecilia Phan (1st)
- Sports and Entertainment Management-Kate Ball and Kit Thompson (1st)
- Visual Design-Brianne Davis (1st)
- Website Design-Jose Fuentes, Yahaira Pina, and Michelle Sandoval (1st)
- State alternates:**
- Accounting-Bryanna Nava (5th)
- Cyber Security-Daniela Zuniga (5th)

TAFE team reaches Nationals

The Mount Pleasant High School chapter of the Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) attended the 40th annual Teach Tomorrow Summit at the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock, on Feb. 27-March 1. Five members attended the state competition after qualifying at area in December. Over 300 schools were represented by more than 2400 competitors at the 3-day event.

The team of juniors Gabriella Garza and April Ruiz advanced to Nationals in Teacher Created Materials with their project “A Needle in a Haystack”. Their project is designed to help teachers extend learning through hands on activities and matching. The concept was presented to a group of judges with Garza and Ruiz demonstrating how it would work in the classroom.

Also competing at state for MPHS TAFE were the team of seniors, Araceli Landaverde and Sidney Beles, with their original children’s book, Dear Mom and Dad, about the sacrifices parents make for their kids and the realization of those sacrifices from a child’s point of view. And junior, Jasmine Landaverde, competed in Job Interview, where she submitted a cover letter, a resume, and participated in an on-site live interview.

“I am so incredibly proud of all these students and thrilled to be headed to our nation’s capitol for another National competition!” said MPHS TAFE Advisor, Aimee Sweeden.



National qualifiers Garza and Ruiz

The 2024 Educators Rising National Conference is scheduled to take place June 28-July 1 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington D.C.



Seniors Araceli Landaverde and Sidney Beles



Jasmine Landaverde competed in job interview.

HOSA student advances to state

The MPHS chapter of HOSA: Future Health Professionals competed in the Area 3 Spring Leadership Conference on Jan. 19-20 at Rock Hill High School in Frisco. The conference hosted approximately 1900 students who competed in over 50 events.

Senior Tisha Patel placed 2nd in Medical Art Poster and has advanced to State. The Medical Art Poster category requires students to create artwork that will stimulate others to explore health care and to communicate this interpretation through the development of a creative, artistic, and informational poster.

Also competing for MPHS were Andriana Price in Job Seeking Skills, Kelsey Howard, Karen Hernandez, and Eli Hernandez in Health Education, Bianca Quistian, Isabel Garza, and Axel Mata in Prepared Speaking, Patricia Gonzalez and Francisco Rodriguez in Health Career Display, and Erika Mickens in Medical Art Poster.

Patel will compete at the Texas HOSA State Leadership Conference on April 3-5 in Galveston. MPHS HOSA advisors include Kristi Houchin, Mandy Hutchings, Sarah Carrell, and Heather Dill.



Patel with her state advancing poster.

Choir seniors share their likes, accomplishments about group

By KRISTINA TIDWELL
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Seniors Hope Powell and Clayton Miller have been in the MPHS choir for the majority of their high school career and share their thoughts about being in the organization.

Hope has been a part of the choir since her freshman year, while Clayton has been a member since he was a sophomore.

What do you like most about choir?

“The thing I like most about choir is getting to travel and compete with my friends,” Hope said.

“The thing I like most about choir is the fun competitions and the family like atmosphere,” Clayton said.

What’s your favorite song the choir has done?

“My favorite song we have done is an all-region piece ‘Let the River Run,’” Hope said.

“My favorite song we have done is “Why We Sing,” Clayton said.

Why do you think people should join choir?

“I think people should join choir to make new friends and get to compete,” Hope said.

“I think people should join choir to express themselves and build upon their talents,” Clayton said.

What’s your favorite type of music to sing?

“My favorite type of music to sing is more recent accomplishment songs,” Hope said.

“My favorite type of music to sing is the modern Christmas



Powell



Miller

songs we sing,” Clayton said.

What’s your greatest accomplishment in choir?

“My greatest accomplishment in choir is making all-region choir every year and getting to bring my friends along,” Hope said.

“My greatest accomplishment in choir is receiving a 1 on my class 1 solo at state,” Clayton said.

How have you changed since freshman year to senior year?

“I’ve changed my mindset and way of working to succeed since freshman year,” Hope said.

“I have grown not only as a person, but as an overall more rounded singer,” Clayton said.

The choir has a concert on May 6 at 7 p.m. in the MPHS auditorium.



SkillsUSA State advancing competitors from left are Osmar Galindo, Alfredo Pineda, Kevin Ayala, Jaime Bello, Luis Rojo, Angel Barboza, Estrella Betancourt, Hector Salazar, Jason Barrientos and Bryan Valle. Not pictured is Ethan Sanchez.

Ten electrical students advance to SkillsUSA state competition

MPHS Electrical Technology students competed in the SkillsUSA District competition on Feb. 9 at Princeton High School. After closing ceremonies on Feb. 17 at Wylie High School, MPHS will send 10 students to the state contest, including one in two different events. Three students will compete individually in the Construction Wiring category while three teams will present their Electrical Exhibits.

In the Construction Wiring competition, MPHS swept the top three spots with senior Jason Barrientos placing 1st, senior Ethan Sanchez 2nd, and junior Hector Salazar 3rd. In this event, competitors are required to complete a written test, a practical conduit bending exercise, and hands-on installation of a conduit system, cabling system and wiring devices. And finally, working from drawings and specification sheets, competitors are required to install an electrical system common in most residential and light commercial projects.

In the Electrical Exhibit competition, all three MPHS teams earned blue ribbons and advanced to state. In this category, each exhibit must have a notebook that contains the electrical working drawings, a detailed description of the work done by the students in paragraph form, a write-up with a list of materials, current receipts, any materials donated, steps followed in completing the exhibit, and the students' resumes. The exhibit must meet the industry standard for creativity and

neatness and is judged on the degree of difficulty and must comply with the 2023 National Electrical Code.

The team of Barrientos and Bryan Valle earned a blue ribbon and advanced to state with their Commercial Wiring Exhibit. Barrientos and Valle built a replica of what is typically found in commercial construction using metal studs, and wired the structure according to the 2023 National Electrical Code.

The team of Kevin Ayala, Jaime Bello, Alfredo Pineda, and Luis Rojo earned a blue ribbon and advanced to state for their Residential Wiring Exhibit. The team installed a wireless hub, donated by Jason Jetton at Elliott Electric, that allows a homeowner to control lighting and monitor the electrical system from an app on their phone.

The team of Estrella Betancourt and Angel Barboza earned a blue ribbon and advanced to state for their Residential Wiring Exhibit. The lighting installed in their exhibit can change colors, be set to change with beats of music, will come on when it senses motion, and will turn off after a period of inactivity.

In addition, senior Osmar Galindo was named a Voting Delegate for District 5 and will be involved in choosing SkillsUSA Leadership for the 2024-2025 year. The SkillsUSA Texas Leadership and Skills Conference is in Corpus Christi on April 3-6. The MPHS Electrical program instructor is Tim Davis.

Three Tiger Dolls share impact, lessons of being in organization

By ALI FAIR CHEEK
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Tiger Dolls have been so busy this year with events from football season to Christmas Parade to performing for the San Antonio Spurs game! As they start preparing for Spring Show, we asked a few girls a few questions about what makes Tiger Dolls so special and how it's positively impacted them over the years.

What do you think it means to be a Tiger Doll?

Genevieve Rubio: "Being a Tiger Doll is honoring and rewarding. We are always working hard to encouraging each other. Being a Tiger Doll is to be respectful, organized, on time, trustworthy and dedicated."

Mishelle Ysasi: "To be a Tiger Doll means to be apart of a great opportunity and a way of building independence."

Audrey Fisher: "Being a Tiger Doll means to think about the team, not just yourself. It means to know how to treat others with respect, it also means to know a sisterhood like no other."

What is the most valuable lesson Tiger Dolls has taught you?

Genevieve Rubio: "Tiger Dolls has taught me time management and responsibility. When being in Tiger Dolls we are constantly practicing and volunteering. This requires us to be on time and take care of business. This has helped me get through my day."

Mishelle Ysasi: "The most valuable lesson I have learned on Tiger Dolls is the importance of team-
See Tiger Dolls, Pg. 9



From left are Sr. Lieutenant Makayla Spigner, Captain Genevieve Rubio and Jr. Lieutenant Jalyssa Aguilar.



The Tiger Dolls perform a halftime routine during a football game.



Tiger Dolls pose at Sam Parker Field

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work. It's all about supporting and relying on each other to achieve success."

Audrey Fisher: "The most valuable lesson Tiger Dolls has taught me is the importance of hard work. Putting in everything you have pays off in the end is much better than giving up."

Can you describe your favorite part of being a Tiger Doll?

Genevieve Rubio: "My favorite part of Tiger Dolls are the practices. I enjoy them because of how the whole team works together and we all strive for our very best. We always give 100% in practice to get the desired outcome we want. Putting on a great performance is this most rewarding thing."

Mishelle Ysasi: "My favorite part of being a Tiger Doll is growing amazing friendships that will win last forever."

Audrey Fisher: "My favorite part about being a Tiger Doll is being able to get to know girls that I most likely wouldn't have gotten to know."

What is your most memorable

moment on Tiger Dolls?

Genevieve Rubio: "My most memorable moment was when I made captain. I was in the Tiger Doll room and we made our new team circle then the gold hat was placed on my head. It was truly honoring giving the responsibility to lead this fantastic team."

Mishelle Ysasi: "A memorable moment for me was during block practice for spring show playing hie and seek with only old mems my new mem year."

Audrey Fisher: "The most memorable moment on Tiger Dolls for me is senior night my freshman year on Tiger Dolls. That football night it rained but we made the most of it and it turned out to be a memory I will remember forever."

How do you think Tiger Dolls helped you throughout high school?

Genevieve Rubio: "Tiger Dolls has kept me to become more organized and to bring out my leadership skills. These two things have helped me with my class work and group projects."



Ali Fair Cheek stands at attention

Mishelle Ysasi: "Tiger Dolls has helped me by being more responsible. The only way I was able to do what I enjoyed the most was by being on top of my things."

Audrey Fisher: "It has helped me with being able to manage my time properly. It has also helped me by giving me something to look forward to."

Winter Guard has stayed busy

By IDANIA CASTANON

Tigertalk Staff Writer

The MPHS Winter Guard team starts the competition season in Frisco Texas. Varsity A, JVA, and JVB traveled to the North Texas Cologuard Association contest. Varsity placed 7th in the National A division, JVA placed 4th in the Scholastic AA division and the JVB team placed 3rd in the Regional A JV division.

On Feb. 24, all three teams traveled to Pine Tree for another NTCA competition. Varsity placed 1st, JVA placed 1st and JVB placed 2nd. The MPHS teams are coached by Darryl Pemberton.

Lieutenant Jillian Jetton says one of the best things about being a part of Winter Guard is the bonds created from being on the team.

One of the hardest things about Winter Guard she says is “The demanding schedule. Having practice at 6 a.m. and then having competition most weekends, is exhausting at times.”

Jillian has been a part of the Winter Guard for almost 6 years, this being her second year as lieutenant.

“It is very similar to being a regular member, but as an officer, I am held to a regular standard. I am responsible for communication between the team and the staff.”

Many responsibilities come with this position. Some of them are keeping up team morals, planning fundraisers, planning socials, and being the bridge between the team members and the director. “I have to make sure I fulfil my responsibilities as a member to the best of my abilities.

Joseline Almazan has been a member of the Color Guard and Winter Guard team for 4 years. She is a part of the Varsity A team.

One of the hardest things about Winter Guard is “definitely the amount of time and work we put in to show off our hard work in our performances.”

“One of the best things about the is the crowd’s reaction when we perform!” Almazan said. “We are recognized by members from other schools, so it feels great to be well known.”

The difference between Color Guard and Winter Guard is that Winter Guard is called their indoor season, and it is the winter/spring season that does not involve the band. What makes it color guard is the marching season with the band.



Winter Guard Varsity Team members



Winter Guard members perform a routine

“Personally, I find marching season the hardest because the summer heat gets everyone and it’s a lot of work.”

Having been in Color Guard for four years Joseline has performed in many shows. Her

favorite one is the one from her junior year, “Vivir Mi Vida.”

During the performance, she did a duet toss with one of her closest friends. “I loved how theatrical the show was.”

Senior Spotlight-Geni Rubio

By NOEMY DORANTES

Tigertalk Staff Writer

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

This issue spotlights Genevieve Rubio, who serves as both Tiger Doll captain and also Future Farmers of America president.

1. How did you first become interested in dance?

It all started when I was a kid. I remember taking a dance class at Raevin Dance Factory, and watched the big girls put on their costumes and they started to rehearse. They all looked beautiful, and I fell in love with their performance. This encouraged me to want to be like them.

2. What has been your most memorable performance as a Tiger Doll?

My most memorable performances would have to all my firsts. My first ever football performance, my first basketball performance, and my first ever spring show. All of it was just magical. The feeling was like no other.

3. How do you manage to balance your academic studies with your dance commitments?

It can definitely be a challenge to balance academics with dance commitments, but I try to stay organized and manage my time effectively. I make a schedule and prioritize my tasks, so I can allocate enough time for both studying and dancing. It also helps to have a supportive network of friends and family who understand my commitments and offer their encouragement.

4. Who has been your biggest inspiration in school?

My biggest inspiration in school would have to be my agriculture teachers. They have all been such great mentors and have helped me grow in my leadership skills and in public speaking.

5. What are you most looking forward to after graduating from high school?

What I look forward to after graduating is exploring new opportunities, meet new people and pursue my passion in law and agriculture.

6. How have you grown and changed as a person throughout your high school years?

Since high school, I've definitely grown a lot. I've become more confident in myself, learned how to manage my time better and formed stronger relationships with others.



Rubio serves as Tiger Dolls captain

High school has helped me find my passion and interests. It has been an exciting four years and a wonderful experience to see how I've grown.

7. What are some of the challenges you face as a student?

Some of the challenges that I have faced would be adjusting to the workload and expectations. The transition from middle school to high school can be daunting, with more demanding classes and increased responsibilities. It took time and patience to get into a groove, but having friends and family that supported me really helped.

8. Can you share a special bond or friendship you've formed with another Tiger Doll?

A special bond I have created in Tiger Dolls will have to be Chloe Carter. We just clicked. We always wanted the best for each other and always gave each other personal and leadership advice.

9. What extracurricular activities or clubs have you been involved in during

high school?

When coming to the high school I knew I had the opportunity to buy new things, so I did. My freshman year I joined the fishing team, FFA and Tiger Dolls. My sophomore year I joined FCA. I continued FFA, Tiger Dolls, and FCA the rest of my high school career.

10. What will you miss the most from high school?

What I will miss the most is being able to have a sense of familiarity and routine. Waking up in the same place every day, seeing familiar faces in the hallways and the community. Another thing I will miss is the spirit, the pep rallies, football, basketball games, prom, homecoming dances, and being able to see others cheering on our teams.

The energy and excitement are contagious. It will definitely be different not having those events to look forward to, but I'm excited to create new memories and traditions.



From left are Sweeden, Logue, Henderson, Hipolito, Garcia and Bradley.

FCCLA has two earn trip to state

The MPHS chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) attended the Region III Leadership Conference at the Waco Convention Center on Feb. 15-17.

Four members competed in two different events with two advancing to the state level in Focus on Children. Focus on Children is an individual or team event where students plan and conduct a child development project that has a positive impact on children and the community.

Freshmen Xo Xo Henderson and Adriana Hipolito advanced to state with their Focus on Children project. Henderson and Hipolito took their 3P project (Patience, Perseverance, and Puzzles) to the local afterschool program at Ignite Youth Club to help kids identify the need to practice the 3 Ps. Their project and presentation landed them in the top five in the region, advancing them to the state competition in April.

Also competing for MPHS, sophomore Ashley Garcia presented a Focus on Children project that addressed gratitude and thankfulness in young children. Her project was presented to two separate groups of students at local elementary campuses.

Finally, junior Melanie Logue competed in Fashion Construction for the second year. Her project, "In a Week", showcased her beautifully constructed one-piece, green linen jumper with an open lapel and welt pocket design. She topped it off with a Brown leatherette jacket and belted with a leather strappy tie wrap belt.

"Mrs Bradley and I are extremely proud of the girls and their projects," said FCCLA Advisor, Aimee Sweeden.



Henderson and Hipolito advanced to state with their project.

"For such a young entrance to the competition, they did an outstanding job. Although Ashley's project did not advance, it shined a light on a topic that sought to embrace the attitude of gratitude. And Melanie's ensemble was eye catching and stood out from the rest of the competition. Her talent was not rewarded with advancement to state but

she will definitely be back for her senior year. Mrs. Bradley and I could not be more thrilled to be back at state in April."

Henderson and Hipolito will continue to the State Conference at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas on April 12-14. MPHS FCCLA Advisors are Margaret Bradley and Aimee Sweeden.



Members of the cast and crew of "Wit."

Theatre competes in One Act, takes fourth in competition

The Mount Pleasant High School Theatre department competed in the District 15-5A UIL One Act play competition on Wednesday, March 6 at Texas High in Texarkana.

The cast and crew placed 4th, narrowly missing advancing to the bi-district round of competition, their highest placement in One Act in many years.

In addition to their alternate placement, four members of the cast and crew earned individual accolades. Junior Emma Sanders earned an All-Star Cast medal for her role as Vivian Bearing. Juniors Madison Zepeda and Roger McKay were named to the Honorable Mention All-Star Cast for their roles as Nurse Susie Monahan and Dr. Harvey Kelekian respectively. And junior Kevin Mendoza earned an All-Star Crew medal for his work on sound.

MPHS Theatre competed with their production of *Wit* by Margaret Edson. In the play, English professor, Vivian Bearing, discovers she has advanced ovarian cancer. She has lived her life alone, is unmarried and without children, her parents are deceased, and she has no emergency contact. Bearing later finds herself under the care of Dr. Jason Posner, an oncology research fellow, who has taken one of her classes. At the

hospital, she recognizes that doctors are interested in her for her research value and, like her, tend to ignore humanity in favor of knowledge. Gradually, she realizes that she would prefer kindness to intellectualism.

The cast featured Emma Sanders as Vivian Bearing, Dawson Hernandez as Jason Posner, Madison Zepeda as Susie Monahan, Roger McKay as Dr. Harvey Kelekian/Ensemble, Peyton Robinson as E.M. Ashford/Ensemble, Gracie Martinez Mom for Patient, Allison Mendoza as Girl Patient, Summer Murillo as Older Woman Patient, and Ensemble members and understudies Sunni Anderson, Joey Dunn, Danika Beckham, Jose Jimenez, Sadera Lampard, Addie McQueen, and Makayla Mather.

The crew included Stage Manager Sara Guerrero, Raul Torres on Booth Lighting, Enrique Marrufo-Hernandez on Stage Lighting, Sound by Kevin Mendoza, and alternate Tristian Trejo.

The MPHS One Act play was directed by MPHS Theatre Department Director, Jordan Chambers, with assistance from Crystal Francis, Crystalla Anderson, and student Director Willow Duncan.

Athletes sign letters of intent to play on the collegiate level

Nine MPHS student athletes signed their national letter of intents to play on the college level during a huge signing day on Feb. 8 held in the high school gymnasium.

Four athletes signed to play softball, while four more signed to play football and one signed to run cross country and track.

Signing to play softball were Jordan Batchelor, Ella Cross, Morgan Hill and Casey Jones.

Cross signed to play for Yale University, while Batchelor will be playing for Kilgore College and Hill and Jones will both play

for Northeast Texas Community College.

Athletes who signed to play football on the collegiate level were Isaiah Hunter, Ryder Marshall, Mason Mcinn and LaTristan Thompson.

Thompson will play for Utah University, McMinn for Fort Hays State University, Hunter for Texas College and Marshall for Austin College.

Also signing was Lee Davis with Rogers State University. He will run both track and cross country for the university.



Jones signs with Northeast Texas Community College.



Cross signs with Yale University.



Davis signs with Rogers State University.



Marshall signs with Austin College.



McMinn signs with Fort Hays State University.



Thompson signs with Utah University.



Batchelor signs with Kilgore College.



Hunter signs with Texas College.



Hill signs with Northeast Texas Community College.



Athletes pose with MPH coaches after signings.

Powerlifters advance to state

After the Regional Powerlifting Meet at Pine Tree on Feb. 29, three Lady Tiger lifters qualified for state. And over Spring Break, seniors Araceli Landaverde and McKinsee Oviedo, junior Dori Macedo, and Coach Don Woods made the trip to Frisco for the Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association State Meet at the Comerica Center.

In 5A Division II Oviedo earned a 4th place state medal in her weight class, lifting 345 lbs. on squat, 280 lbs. on bench, and a 345 lb. dead lift for a total of 970 lbs. in the final meet of her powerlifting career. She improved two spots from a 6th place finish at state in 2023 for a coveted state medal.

Landaverde placed 6th in her weight class, also improving two spots from state in 2023. She posted a 235 lb. squat, a 135 lb. bench, and a 225 lb. dead lift for a total of 595 lbs. to round out her powerlifting career and was also the Region 3 scholarship recipient.

Junior Dori Macedo placed 10th in her weight class at her first trip to the state meet.

She turned in a 240 lb. squat, a 135 lb. bench, and a 200 lb. dead lift for a 575 lb. total and will be looking to return to state in 2025.

"I am really going to miss all my seniors," said Woods. "They have thrown down



From left are Dori Macedo, Araeli Landaverde and McKinsee Oviedo.

the gauntlet for all MP Tiger lifters for the upcoming years. It has been an honor and privilege to coach and watch them mature

over the past 4 years. Their fire and passion will push them to continue to do great things in their lives."



Tiger State Qualifiers

Two MPHS boy powerlifters qualified for the state meet while competing at regionals held at Tyler Chapel Hill.

Junior Jose Gonzalez and junior Devon Burtness qualified for state. Gonzalez and Burtness made their first trip to state.

Also for the Tigers, Nathaniel Cates placed fourth in his weight class.

The Tigers are coached by Blake Lodes.

Soccer teams advance to playoffs

Both the girls and boys soccer teams advanced to the playoffs this season. The girls finished second in district and the boys took third. The girls beat Huntsville in the first round, while the boys defeated Lufkin as both teams advanced to area.

Seniors Cinthia Flores and Jason Barrientos answered some questions about soccer and this season.

Flores, member of the Lady Tiger soccer team, said she hopes to go far in the playoffs. Her favorite things to do during soccer practice are doing fun drills because she gets to learn while having fun, she also enjoys practicing penalties.

Flores plays as a defender and center back for the team. Some soccer players that inspire Flores are Sergio Ramosa and Virgil Van Dijk.

Barrientos, a member of the Tiger soccer team, hopes to have an amazing playoff run. Barrientos favorite thing to do during soccer practice is being able to hang out with the team, bonding and overall making



Flores

good memories. Barrientos plays as a holding midfielder and sometimes as a right



Barrientos

back. The soccer player that inspires Barrientos the most is Leonel Messi.



Lady Tigers Soccer Seniors

From left are manager Brianna Avellanea, manager Charis Ramirez, manager Ashley Rosales, Evangelina Garcia, Cinthia Flores, Ahilin Hernandez, Kaira Leija, Mea Banda and Jeisy Munoz.

Tigers Soccer Seniors

Front row from left are Alan Barboza, Enrique Serrano, Rogelio Rios and Edgar Flores. Back row from left are Jose Fuentes, Nathaniel Cates, Mason Parks, Andres Lopez, Daniel Adame, Nathan Gandara, Jason Barrientos, Emiliano Graniel and John Zelaya.



Art students reach state in VASE

Mount Pleasant High School Art students entered 61 art pieces in the Region 8 Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) competition on Saturday, February 24 at Chisum High School, competing against 17 schools in our area. Art pieces were scored as a 4 (Excellent), a 3 (Strong), a 2 (Developing), or a 1 (Emerging). Fifty-five of the MPHS pieces received medals and four students have advanced to state with six different works. Only 27 pieces out of 317 in the entire region qualified for state so MPHS students made up over 20% of those advancing.

In order to advance to state, the piece must first earn a rating of 4. All of the 4's in a particular division are then judged a second time and state advancements are awarded based on an allotment, roughly 10% in each division. Earning scores of 4 (Excellent) and moving on to state are senior Stephanie Hernandez for *Sunbathing*, junior Josue Vega for two pieces titled *AJ's truck* and *The Boys*, sophomore Ailyn DeLaRosa for two pieces titled *Greatness* and *Grandpa*, and sophomore Dayanara Pulquero with *Red*. This will be Hernandez's third trip to state and Vega's second.

Gold medalists also earning scores of 4 (Excellent) are Joaquin Arguello, Ritchie Alcibar, Jasmin Alvarez, Natalia SeeArt, Pg. 19



Hernandez shows off her state qualifying piece.



DeLaRosa with her state qualifying piece.



Vega and his state qualifying piece *The Boys*.

Art from Page 18

Aspeitia, Alan Barrientos, Ana Bonilla, Rafael Calderon, Briana Chavez, Brianne Davis, Ailyen DeLaRosa, Brian DelCarmen Memije, Analee Escalante, Leilani Hardwick, Evelyn Hernandez, Stephanie Hernandez, Yvonne Huerta, Kami Labutis, Morgan Lee-Osbourne, Taylor Lee-Osbourne, Carolyn Loeaza, Mollie Luck, Emilia Marino, Jaydy Martinez, Rebecca Martinez, Mattie Merriman, Valerie Moss, Alyssa Narvaez, Ayden Osterdock, Tisha Patel, Ashley Pina, Katherine Plata, Dayanara Pulquero, Zayma Rodriguez, Cassandra Saavedra, and Josue Vega.

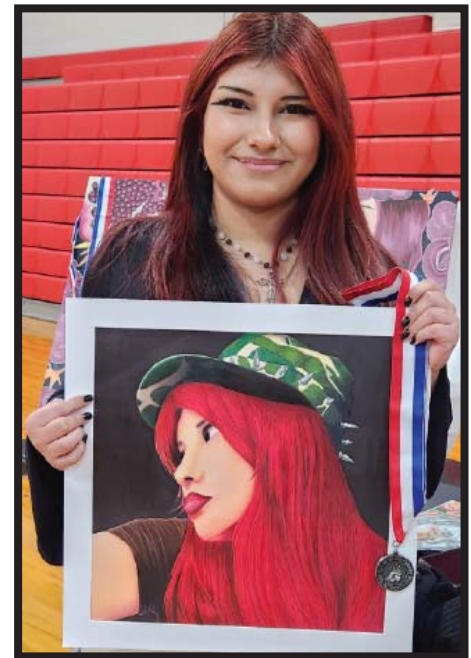
The state Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) competition will be held at San Marcos High School on April 26-27. The MPHS Art program is under the direction of Laura Kirkland.



Vega's piece *AJ's truck* qualified for state.



DeLarosa's advanced to state also with *Greatness*.



Pulquero with *Red*.

Band members advance to state

Members of the Mount Pleasant High School Goin' Gold Band participated in the UIL Region IV Solo and Ensemble Contest with 39 members earning 45 first division medals and advancing to the UIL State Solo and Ensemble contest.

Students auditioned as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble on Friday, February 23 at New Boston High School.

Soloists qualifying for state include Bryan Garcia (Flute), Orion Senence (Trumpet), Andy Carillo (Snare Drum), and Luke Thurman (Marimba).

The following ensembles earned a division one rating and have advanced to state:

Saxophone Trio—Shpat Zeqaj, Suhey Lopez, Zoë Newman
Saxophone Quartet—Shpat Zeqaj, Suhey Lopez, Zoë Newman, Julian Chancellor

Clarinet Choir—Jose Fuentes, Odalys Mejia, Christopher Sorto, Araceli Solis, Cindy Valle, Diana Ramirez, Heidi Martinez, Makayla Mather, Kaylee Ramos, Andrew Perez, Neftali

Gonzalez

Trumpet Trio—Orion Senence, Adriel Bagsic, Sebastian Contreras

Euphonium Quartet—Oscar Castellanos, Bruno Deleon, Angel Farias, Jesus Mata

Percussion Ensemble—Edward Moya, Natalie Hines, Jamaree Armour, Luke Thurman, Alejandro Rosiles-Cervantes, Ethan Carillo

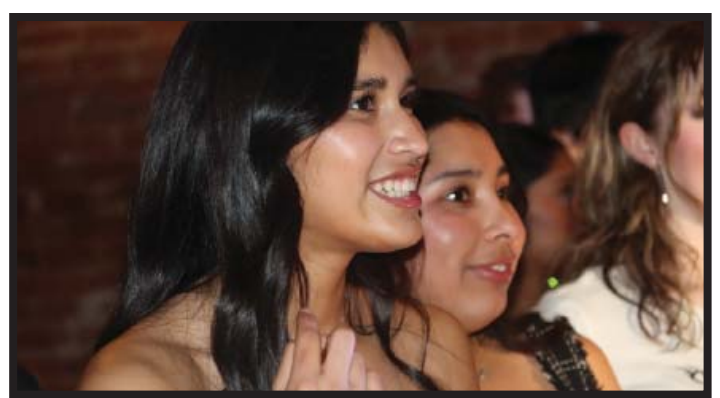
Percussion Ensemble—Jayden Adame, Dalia Balderas, Camauri Adams, Alex Perez, Francisco Zapata, Pedro Castillo

Percussion Ensemble—Armando Molina, Grace Zittel, Aaron Waldrep

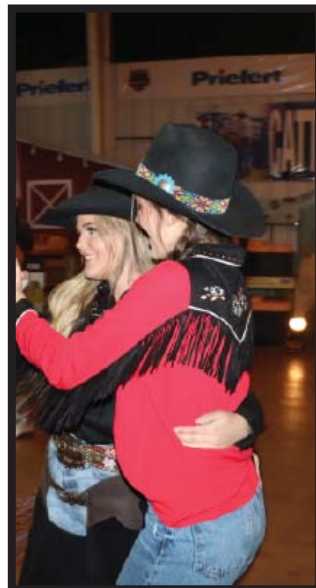
Senior Orion Senence and junior Luke Thurman qualified for state as both a soloist and as part of an ensemble. And seniors Shpat Zeqaj, Suhey Lopez, Zoë Newman, and freshman Pedro Castillo qualified for state as a part of two different ensembles.

See Band, Pg. 22

SENIOR CELEBRITY PARTY



SENIOR WESTERN PARTY



20 questions with Mrs. Young

By NATHALI ROJAS

Tigertalk Editor

In every issue, Tigertalk features a story on a staff member here at MPISD as they too have something interesting to offer about themselves outside of school. This issue highlights Mrs. Jovanna Young, who teaches Biology.

1. What inspired you to become a biology teacher?

I was amazed at how the microscopic world of life works.

2. What made you want to become a teacher?

I enjoyed my education and wanted to help students understand their world.

3. How would you describe your method of teaching?

I use multiple teaching methods that include peer-group learning, hands-on experience, using technology.

4. What is your favorite thing to teach?

My favorite thing to teach is definitely genetics, which is historical data and most current research on calls and data.

5. How do you keep your students engaged in class?

I go around asking questions or move around and make sure everyone is working.

6. How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching 30 years.

7. How long have you been at MPHS?

I have been at MPHS for 28 years.

8. What was your favorite subject to learn while in school?

My favorite subjects were geography and biology.

9. What was the craziest thing that happened while teaching a class?

While in my class a female student told a male student that the male student would never hit a girl, he stood up and punched her in the face.

10. What was your dream job before teaching?

I wanted to own a store because I loved orga-



Young has been teaching at MPHS for 28 years.

nizing and meeting new people

11. If you had all the money in the world, what would you do with it?

I would travel and eat the many different kinds of food in the world.

12. How many kids do you have?

I have 5 kids.

13. If you could pick another name for yourself, what would you choose?

I would pick Stephania.

14. Why did you choose to work at MPHS?

I wanted to teach high school level kids and I lived in Mount Pleasant already.

15. What was your dream job as a kid and why?

I wanted to be a secretary because that is what my mom did.

16. What was one trend you liked and why?

Leg warmers because not only did they look good, but they also kept my legs warm.

17. What was your favorite century and why?

The 20th century because it was exciting to see all the new things that were being invented.

18. If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be and why?

I would change poverty situations and I would offer education and healthcare where it is needed

19. What courses did you have to take to teach the subject?

Biology, Chemistry and Genetics

20. What is your favorite thing to teach?

Genetics

Band from

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Additionally, three of the students qualified for state as eighth-graders including Jayden Adame, Jesus Mata, and Aaron Waldrep.

The UIL State Solo and Ensemble contest is scheduled for May 25-27 in Austin.

The MPISD band program is under the direction of Dr. Theodus Luckett, Karen Luckett, Jamey Sterrett, Brian Bass, Alicia Hargett, and Sheri Sullivan.



Band State Qualifiers

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Tiger Roar

If you could have dinner with any celebrity, who would you pick?

Page by Tigertalk Editor Nathali Rojas and contributor Caparis Smith



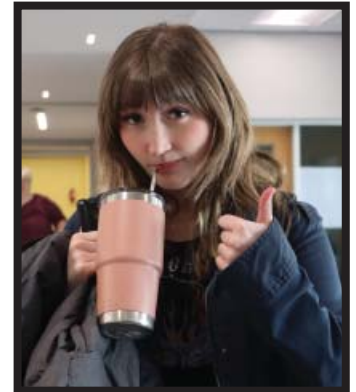
“Gabriel Iglesias”
-- Adrian Saldivar, 12



“Cole Sprouse
from Riverdale”
-- Ca’Paris Smith, 12



“Courage voice actor from
Courage the Cowardly Dog”
-- Salvador Moreno, 12



“Tom Hiddleston”
--- Hope Powell, 12



“Sydney Sweeney”
-- Isaiah Rodarte, 12



“Alex Florin”
-- Nathali Rojas, 12



“Jhene Aiko”
-- Alessandra Cervantes, 11
-- Yvette Cervantes, 10



“Derrick from
The Challenge.”
--- Matti Merriman, 9



“Tom DeLonge”
--- Makayla Mather, 9



“Bad Bunny”
--- Ms. Mora



“Matthew McCoughnay”
--- Ms. Trimm