

Tigertalk

**Christmas
Royalty
named**

**Mr. and
Miss
MPHS
chosen**

**Homecoming King Tanner Marshall
and Queen Karina Torres**



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The Mount Pleasant High School Cheerleaders closed out the fall competition at the NCA State of Texas Championship in Dallas on Saturday, Dec. 14 and placed in the top five in their division.

MPHS competed with 24 other squads in the Large Varsity Game Day division finishing in 4th place, only .6 back from second place and .9 back from first.

The MPHS Cheer Squad will compete again at the UIL State Championships on Jan. 17-18 in Fort Worth. MPHS Cheer is coached by Karissa Lopez and Kay Hargrove.

Tigertalk

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Marshall, Torres crowned Homecoming King, Queen

By KRISTINA TIDWELL

Tigertalk Staff Writer

Seniors Karina Torres and Tanner Marshall were recently selected as this year's homecoming queen and king prior to the Tigers' win over Nacogdoches.

Homecoming court members also included Katherine Ball, Jeseth Monreal, Kit Thompson, Jonathan Amieva, Samuel Chappell and Jesus Moreno.

Torres, 18, is the daughter of Tali and Conny Torres. Conny is her role model. Karina was escorted by her dad. She plans to attend college and become a teacher. Her favorite subject is English because she loves to read.

Torres' hobbies include dancing and playing sports. Her favorite thing to eat is Chicken Alfredo, and she loves eating at Chipotle. Torres is a member of Tiger Dolls and soccer captain. She wants to travel to Destin, Fla.

Marshall, 17, is the son of Judd and Courtney Marshall. His role models are his father and his grandfather. Tanner was escorted by his mom. He plans to attend Texas A&M next semester and study to become a mechanical engineer. His favorite subjects are math and science because there are definite answers to every question and logic and problems solving skills are important.

Marshall's hobbies include video games and weightlifting. His favorite thing to eat is a double meat cheeseburger and cheese sticks, and he loves eating at the Mount Vernon Dairy Queen. Marshall's involvements with the school includes the Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy, NHS, UIL Math and Science, Varsity Basketball, Varsity Football, FBLA, Senior Class Vice President and Student Council. He wants to visit Madagascar.

Ball, 17, is the daughter of Tim Ball and Dr. Rebecca Ball. Katherine was escorted by her dad. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin, major in Biology, get her doctorate and



Karina is shown with her escort.



Tanner is pictured with his mother Courtney.

pursue dentistry. Her favorite subject is Government because its interesting to learn about.

Ball's hobbies include reading and sports. Her favorite thing to eat is pasta and she loves eating at Two Senioritas. Ball's involvements with the school includes FBLA, STUCO, NHS, swim, and golf. She wants to visit Rome, Moscazzano, and Crema.

Monreal, 17, is the daughter of Jose and Nelly Monreal. Jeseth was escorted by her dad. She plans on getting her masters in architecture at UT-Arlington. Her favorite subject is math because it is easy for her.

Monreal's hobbies include cooking and playing dress to impress. Her favorite thing to eat is Chicken Katsu.

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Monreal's involvements with the school includes NHS, NTHS and FFA. Her favorite vacation spot is Puerto Rico, and Mr. Blackstone is her role model

Thompson, 18, is the daughter of Delann Thompson and Dr. Kenny Thompson. She was escorted by her father, and her role model is her mom. She plans to attend the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and major in business with a minor in photography. Her favorite class is photography because it allows her to express her creativity and capture moments forever.

Thompson's hobbies include photography, Bible studies, going to concerts and hanging out with friends. Her favorite thing to eat is Mexican food and she loves to eat at Two Senoritas. Thompson's involvements with the school includes a 4 year member of MPHS Cheer, Cheer Captain, NHS, NTHS, FBLA, Spanish 2 Honors, Marketing and Business Academic Blankets, and FCA. She wants to visit Greece.

Amieva, 17, is the son of Daniel and Marili Estrella. His role model is his dad and he was escorted by his mom. He plans to continue his football career and major in business in college. His favorite subject is math because he likes to work with numbers.

Amieva's hobbies include hunting, fishing, and hanging out with family and friends. His favorite thing to eat is burgers and he loves to eat at McDonalds. His involve-

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Katherine Ball



Jeseth Monreal



Kit Thompson

Homecoming from Page 4

ments with the school include football, track and field, team captain, 3 times All District awards and 2024-2025 All-Star selection. His favorite vacation spot is Bimini, Bahamas.

Chappell, 17, is the son of Lyndee Chappell and Henry Chappell II. His role model is Jim Henson. Sam was escorted by his mom. He plans to become a successful filmmaker and screenwriter. His favorite subject is English because he loves studying English literature and reading classic stories.

Chappell's hobbies include writing, playing video games, and filmmaking. His favorite thing to eat is Chicken Pot Pie and he loves eating at Luigi's. His involvements with the school include STUCO, NHS, NTHS, Audio/Visual Production and awarded the English Blanket three years in a row. He wants to visit Italy one day.

Moreno, 17, is the son of J Guadalupe and Teresa Moreno. His role model is his parents. Jesus was escorted by his mom. He plans to go to college and continue his education to be a doctor. His favorite subject is math because he likes the feeling of solving difficult math problems.

Moreno's hobbies include running, listening to music, and sleeping. His favorite thing to eat it tacos and his favorite place to eat is Raising Canes.

His involvements include football, track, NHS, NTHS, HOSA, FBLA, UIL, Senior Class Treasurer, certified EKG technician and STUCO. He wants to visit Spain.



Jonathan Amieva



Samuel Chappell



Jesus Moreno

Football teams pick sweethearts

By JASSIEL HERNANDEZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The 2024 sweethearts chosen by the football players this year were Eva Hampton for varsity, Heslie Adame for junior varsity and Tenley Marshall for freshman.

Hampton is the daughter of Robby and Carre Hampton, both graduates of Mount Pleasant High School.

Eva has participated in basketball and track all four years of high school. Her hobbies include sports and hanging out with her friends and family.

Her plans after high school are to attend college in the fall. Her favorite vacation spot is Florida but hopes to visit Bali one day.

Her favorite food are wings and macaroni and cheese. She likes athletics best of her classes because she gets to play sports.

Adame is the daughter of Sergio Adame and Maria Zaldivar. Heslie plays soccer and her favorite subject is English because she likes to read books.

Her plans after high school are to attend college and get a degree in the medical field. Her favorite place to eat is Chick-Fil-A and she likes to eat pizza and go to Starbucks. She would like to visit The Bahamas one day.

Marshall is the daughter of Judd and Courtney Marshall, who are her role models. She is the junior varsity cheer captain, plays soft-



Eva Hampton

ball, serves as Freshman Class Vice President and is a member of STUCO.

Her hobbies include cheer softball and hanging out with her friends. She plans to attend Texas A&M and become a pediatric nurse after high school.

Tenley's favorite place to eat is Texas Roadhouse and her favorite food is steak. Her favorite subject is English. She wants to visit The Bahamas and go to the beach.



Heslie Adame



Tenley Marshall



Thurman and Torres were honored as Mr. and Miss MPHS by their senior classmates.

Seniors elect Thurman, Torres for Mr. and Miss MPHS honor

High school seniors recently chose Luke Thurman and Karina Torres for Mr. and Miss MPHS in balloting during senior superlative voting.

Thurman is the 18-year-old son of Tris and Stephanie Thurman. He is a member of the Goin' Gold Band, UIL Math, FBLA, Student Council, NHS and is also Senior Class President.

"It's an honor that my classmates would think so high of me to nominate me for this position," Luke said. "I truly believe that the Class of 2025 is one of the best classes this school has seen in a long time and the fact that they would think of me for this position means a lot to me."

Thurman said his role model is his grandfather because he taught him the importance of being a good listener. Among his hobbies are listening to and playing music, gaming and spending time with my friends and loved ones.

His future plans are to attend college and either become an accountant or an engineer.

Thurman said what he likes best about MPHS is "the new band hall is very nice, and I especially love the teachers I've had throughout the years because they were always willing to help me learn."

He said his favorite memory of high school is game nights with the band and his percussion section. His fa-

vorite binge show is "*Doctor Who*."

He said his most impactful teacher has been Mr. Bass because he not only led him to become a better musician but also a better person.

Torres is the 18-year-old daughter of Tali and Conny Torres. She has participated in soccer in high school and is also a member of the Tiger Dolls this year. Her soccer awards include District MVP, Newcomer of the Year, Offensive MVP and Varsity MVP.

Upon receiving the honor, Torres said "it's an honor to be recognized by my classmates, and it feels very special to be truly seen and loved by my peers."

Her hobbies are playing sports, dancing and reading. She plans to attend college to become an elementary teacher. Her role model is her dad because "he taught me everything I know."

Torres said what she likes best about MPHS is how easy it is to make friends here. Her favorite memory is soccer practice with her best friend Ahilin Hernandez.

Her favorite binge shows are "*Outer Banks*" and "*Gilmore Girls*."

Torres said the most impactful teacher for her is soccer coach David Zaldivar.

"Since my freshman year, he's never given up on me and always believed I could succeed," Karina said.

Chappell, Monreal selected MPHS Christmas King, Queen

Samuel Chappell and Jeseth Monreal were elected as this year Christmas King and Queen.

Chappell, 17, is the son of Henry Chappell II and Lyndell Chappell. At school, he is involved in NHS, NTHS, FBLA, Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy, Student Council, Audio-Video Production and has won the Academic Blanket Award for English 1,2 and 3.

Upon being named Christmas king, Chappell said "I felt honored, and I have always loved the Christmas Parade so it was fun to be a part of that. I am also happy that I won it with Jeseth."

Chappell said he had lots of holiday memories growing up, but his favorite is staying up really late on Christmas Eve with his cousins and playing video games.

Like many families, Samuel's family has Christmas traditions and he has a favorite one.

"My parents read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to me and my siblings before we go to bed every Christmas Eve," Samuel said.

His favorite Christmas movie he said is National Lampoon's Christmas vacation. His hobbies include reading, writing, video games and filmmaking.

Monreal, 17, is the daughter of Jose and Nelly Monreal. She is a member of NHS, NTHS and FFA. Her hobbies include cooking, shopping, spending time on her phones and playing with her cat.

Jeseth said she was honored to receive the award.

"It feels incredibly special, and I appreciate



Christmas King Samuel Chappell and Queen Jeseth Monreal

my classmates for wanting to choose me as the Christmas Queen," Jeseth said. "I am extremely grateful that I was recognized as the right fit for this position! Merry Christmas!"

Her favorite Christmas memory was getting a Barbie Dreamhouse when she was 7 years

old. The Christmas tradition she enjoys the most is cooking all of their food as a family.

Her favorite movie is Edward Scissorhands, and what she wants for Christmas is lots of snow during Christmas even if she says it never happens.

Seniors hold toy drive for students

Clothes for the Classroom, a group made of Mount Pleasant High School seniors, is holding a toy drive for local children. The group, whose motto is for students, by students, held a clothing drive before school started and collected over 1800 articles of clothing that were distributed to local students.

With the help of Communities in Schools, all toy donations will benefit students in Titus County schools.

On Dec. 9, Detective Marquin Brewer and Michael McGhee, representing the Mount Pleasant Law Enforcement Association, presented a check for \$400 to the group.



Seniors Thurman, Pena named MPHS Band Beau, Sweetheart

The Mount Pleasant High School Goin' Gold Band and Colorguard selected Luke Thurman and Jennifer Pena as their beau and sweetheart. The two were recognized prior to the Tigers homecoming game against Nacogdoches.

Luke, the son of Tris and Stephanie Thurman, is a member of the UIL Math team, FBLA, Student Council, President of NHS, Senior Class President and percussion section leader of the band.

Among his hobbies are playing and listening to music and playing video games with his friends.

Thurman plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in accounting and engineering. His favorite place to visit is Shady Lake State Park in Arkansas, and his favorite food is his dad's homecooked steaks. His favorite place to eat is Texas Roadhouse.

His favorite subjects are band and math. "I enjoy playing music, and I'm a very much number-oriented person," Thurman said.

Pena is the daughter of Jose Luis Pena and Rosaura Orduna. She serves as Senior Vice President for Cosmetology, NTHS Treasurer, flute section leader for the band and is also a member of NHS and FBLA.

Pena plans to attend the University of



Jennifer Pena and Luke Thurman

Texas at Arlington and major in Interior Design.

Her hobbies are napping, listening to all types of music, reading and cloud watching. One day, she would like to visit Anta-

lya, Turkey. Her favorite subject is English because it's where she found her love for teaching.

Her favorite place to eat is Chili's and her favorite food is rice.

Choir students advance to area auditions

Seventeen All-Region Choir students from Mount Pleasant High School participated in Pre-Area auditions on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at the MPHS Performing Arts Complex, performing 3 selections for the audition. Nine have advanced to Area auditions in January.

Area qualifiers include seniors Alivia Newman (1st chair, Alto 2) and Kristina Tidwell (3rd chair, Soprano 2), juniors Mattie Merriman (4th chair, Soprano 2) and Peyton Robinson (5th chair, Alto 2), sophomores Sara Vanhooose (4th chair, Alto 2), Hector Sierra-Rosales (2nd chair, Bass 2), Daniel Kimbrough (3rd chair, Bass 2), and Axavier Anderson (4th chair, Bass 2), and freshman Dakota Williams.

Area auditions will be held Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, at Baylor University in Waco. The MPHS Choir program is under the direction of Nancy Vines.



Front row from left are Alivia Newman, Kristina Tidwell and Mattie Merriman. Back row from left are Sara Vanhooose, Peyton Robinson, Dakota Williams, Daniel Kimbrough, Axavier Anderson and Hector Sierra-Rosales.

FBLA students advance to state

The Area 6 FBLA Leadership Conference on Monday, December 9 at the Region 8 Educational Service Center featured 298 competitors representing 9 schools in our area. Of the record 113 competitors representing Mount Pleasant High School, MPHS had a very successful day with 90 members qualifying for state, also a new school record.

Fifty-two individuals earned 1st place in their respective events at the area conference and MPHS placed 1st in 28 of the 47 events they entered. For the first time ever, MPHS has surpassed the 100-member mark with 121 members total and is now the 9th largest chapter in the state of Texas.

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

- Accounting 1** – Jose Gonzalez (1st)
- Advertising** - Camauri Burwell (1st), Anthony Gonzalez (2nd), Alexis Mata (3rd)
- Agribusiness** – Xitlaly Sanchez (3rd)
- American Enterprise Project** – Gopi Amin, Diya Desai and Cinthya Ramirez (1st)
- Broadcast Journalism** – Sandy Farias, Emily Garcia and Zuleyka Velez (2nd)
- Business Ethics** – Kate Ball, Evan Cota and Tanner Marshall (1st), Jannely Aguilar, Isaac Hernandez and Yolette Mata (2nd)
- Business Management** – Alessandra Cervantes and Tania Rangel (1st)
- Business Plan** – Edward Moya, Alex Perez and Francisco Zapata (3rd)
- Coding and Programming** – Isaac Flores and Juan Gallegos (1st)
- Computer Game and Simulation Programming** – Isabella Furnish, Aloani Laboy and Charity Prater (1st)
- Cyber Security** – Melanie Barraza (1st)
- Data Analysis** – Bruno Deleon and Angel Farias (1st)
- Digital Video Production** – Valeria Bello, Esmeralda Perez and Alondra Santos (1st)
- Financial Math** – Luke Thurman (1st), Christopher Sorto (3rd)
- Graphic Design** – Rachel Albin, Zoey Cato and Addison Heeren (1st)
- Health Care Administration** – Brissia Alvarez (1st)
- Help Desk** – Patricia Gonzalez (1st), Rafael Calderon (2nd)
- Hospitality and Event Management** – David Cumpian, Amir Martinez and Francisco Rodriguez (1st), Haley Carr, Jennifer Castro and Sofia Estrada (2nd)



FBLA Area Competitors in tested events



FBLA Area Competitors in presentation and speech events

- Human Resource Management** – Gabriel Castaneda (1st)
 - Impromptu Speaking** – Vasti Hernandez (3rd)
 - Insurance and Risk Management** – Kaylee Ramos (1st)
 - Intro to Programming** – Aylin Dominguez, Kianna Mickens and Kiara Mickens (1st)
 - Introduction to Business Presentation** – Sabrina Otero-Svirska and Roselynn Ramirez (2nd)
 - Introduction to Business Procedures** – Trisha Easley (1st), Vanessa Aspeitia (2nd)
 - Introduction to Event Planning** – Jayden Baker, Emily Crabb and Cooper Rider (2nd), Dalia Balderas, Lia Esguerra and Alba Zeqaj (3rd)
 - Introduction to Financial Math** – Alexia Hawkins (2nd)
 - Introduction to Social Media Strategy** – Blakely Garrett and Lynndsie Phan (1st)
 - Journalism** – Natalie Hines (2nd)
 - Network Design** – Alston Jeff (1st)
 - Networking Infrastructures** – Katherine Adame (3rd)
 - Organization Leadership** – Natalia Aspeitia (1st), Daniela Pina (3rd)
 - Personal Finance** – Bryanna Nava (1st)
 - Public Policy and Advocacy** – Amy Santillan (3rd)
 - Public Service Announcement** – Evelyn Hernandez, Leslie Hernandez and Wendy Valdez (2nd)
 - Social Media Strategies** – Angel Flores and Jennifer Luna (1st)
 - Sports and Entertainment Management** – Terrelle Beard, Nitalya Trimble and Tanaai Williams (1st)
 - UX Design** – Julian Chancellor (1st), Samuel Chappell (2nd)
 - Visual Design** – Emely Chavelas, Dollian Phan and Diego Ugalde (1st)
 - Website Coding and Design** – Makayla Mather and Aidan Perez (1st)
 - Website Design** – Yahaira Pina and Michelle Sandoval (2nd)
- Students also placing in their events include:
- Accounting 1** – Alessandro Greco (5th)
 - Business Communication** – Eva Salas (4th), Lizbeth Soto (6th)
 - Business Law** – Sha'nala Hill (5th)
 - Cyber Security** – Jessica Hang (4th), Jazlynn Juarez (5th)

See FBLA, Pg. 11



Front row from left are Sandy Farias, Amy Santillan, Evie Whisenhunt, Alfredo Santillan, Christopher Sorto, Adriel Bagsic, Jayden Adame and Angel Farias. Back row from left are Julian Chancellor, Brian Garcia, Nephtali Gonzalez, Jesus Silva, Luke Thurman, Bruno Deleon and Walter Terrell.

Band members selected for All-Region

Sixteen members of the Mount Pleasant High School Goin' Gold Band were named to the High School All-Region Band after auditions on Friday, Dec. 13 at Pine Tree High School in Longview. Nine of the sixteen have qualified for Area auditions.

Advancing to Area auditions from MPHS are Neftali Gonzalez (Contra-Bass, 1st chair), Sandy Farias (French Horn, 1st chair), Bryan Gar-

cia (Flute, 1st chair), Evie Whisenhunt (Piccolo, 1st chair), Bruno Deleon (Euphonium, 2nd chair), Christopher Sorto (Bb Clarinet, 3rd chair), Angel Farias (Euphonium, 3rd chair), Alfredo Santillan (Flute, 3rd chair), and Adriel Bagsic (Trumpet, 5th chair).

Also selected for the High School All-Region Band were Julian Chancellor (Tenor Saxophone, 2nd chair), Luke Thurman (Percussion, 3rd chair), Andy

Carrillo (Percussion, 7th chair), Jesus Silva (Tenor Trombone, 8th chair), Jayden Adame (Percussion, 9th chair), Walter Terrell (Trumpet, 12th chair), and Amy Santillan (Flute, 12th chair).

The selected members will participate in the All-Region clinic and concert on Jan. 24-25 in the Mount Pleasant High School Performing Arts Complex. Area auditions will take place on January 11 at Plano Senior High School.

FBLA from Page 10

Financial Math – Emily Ortiz (7th)

Health Care Administration – Eli Hernandez (4th), Jesus Moreno (6th) and Logan Curley (8th)

Introduction to Business Communication – Khloe Cooper (4th)

Introduction to Business Concepts – Erick Bernardi (5th)

Introduction to FBLA – Sebastian Contreras (6th) and Irlanda Gasca (7th)

Introduction to Financial Math – Jose Miguel Gonzalez (5th), Adriel Bagsic (6th)
Marketing – Raquel Garza, Celeste Landin and Leinad Rodriguez (4th)

Organizational Leadership – Emily Ponce (4th)

Personal Finance – Jennifer Pena (4th),

Veronica Bernardino (6th)

Public Speaking – Andy Carrillo (7th)

In addition to competing, MPHS junior, Jennifer Luna, was elected the FBLA Area 6 President with junior, Wendy Valdez, named the FBLA Area 6 Parliamentarian for 2025-2026. And MPHS senior, Jazlynn Juarez, was the 2023-2024 Who's Who Area 6 recipient.

"I am extremely proud of our students and their performances at area this year," said head FBLA Advisor, John Whitten. "Our students had a limited time this year to get their presentations and speeches done and study for their tests this semester due to competition being held about six weeks earlier than normal.

"Students put a lot of hard work by staying after school every Monday for two months to prepare for competition. Students will now begin the process of trying to better their test scores along with improving their presentations and speeches for state. We have a great group of FBLA students who embody the spirit of what you would want in a future leader. I am proud to lead such a dedicated group of students who make me proud to be their advisor."

Advancing students will compete at the FBLA State Leadership Conference at the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock on Feb. 23-25, 2025.

MPHS FBLA Advisors are John Whitten, Shanta Lockett, and Tracy Porter.

Foreign exchange student adjusting to going school at Mount Pleasant

By JASMINE BRIONES

Tigertalk Staff Writer

Nico Schmidt is one of the foreign exchange students going to high school here this school year. He is visiting from Germany and is in the 11th grade.

Although it took some time to get comfortable, he is adjusting well to everyday life in America.

When asked about what he hopes to learn about himself with this experience, he responded with “I hope to get to know myself better and to see other sides of myself and that I look at things from a different perspective.”

His end goals for the experience include learning about different cultures, gaining independence, and to improve his English.

There are always going to be common misconceptions about a place that most people haven’t been to. With Nico, he says that people still commonly refer to Germans as Nazis.

“I think we have worked through our history better than many other countries,” Schmidt said.

He says that people also assume that everyone there likes sauerkraut.

Since he has been attending MPHS, he has joined cross-country as well as the soccer team. Additionally, he is in the athletics study hall, which he enjoys because it provides an opportunity to exercise and stay active every day.

Nico actually has a fond love for soccer. “I love to play it myself and i love to watch soccer, especially my favorite soccer club St. Pauli. When I was in Germany, I spent much time traveling with them to watch their games and I saw nearly every game in the stadium last season,” Nico said.

Along with his passion for soccer, he is excited to also learn more about American sports and hobbies, such as football.

Compared to schools in Germany, Nico has his favorites and his least favorites about American schools. When asked about how they compare, he says that their schedules are completely different. As opposed to the same classes every



Nico Schmidt is a foreign exchange student from Germany.

day, schools in Germany have different classes for each day of the week.

“We also have breaks between the lessons,” he said. “So most of the time we have two periods that are one after another and then a 20-minute break, and then two more periods. After 6th period, we either have lunch break or off because we have three days in the week just until 1pm, and the other two days we get a 50-minute lunch break and then another two periods.”

As for his personal opinion, Nico states that German schools don’t have many sports available, and he wishes that there were a larger variety of sports in German schools like there are in American schools. However, he doesn’t enjoy how long our school days are.

With Christmas around the corner, Nico was asked about any traditions that Germany has for the holiday.

He responded with, “we celebrate Christmas the same as the us but with one dif-

ference: that our highlight of Christmas is us unwrapping presents the evening of the 24th.”

Next to traditions, he was asked about any Christmas-related folklore or stories popular in his country, to which he explained that there are only some slight differences.

In Germany, stories from the Bible are used as well, along with traditional Christmas stories and movies too.

Finally, he was asked about what he would like for Christmas this year.

“I don’t really need something materialistic,” Nico said. “I would be thankful if i just have a nice time with my host family.”

Nico Schmidt is extremely grateful for the experience and opportunity to be a part of the exchange program and seems to like it quite well.

When all is said and done, Nico plans to take all that he learned and hopefully walk away from it a brand-new person.

Senior's art to be displayed at U.S. Capitol

MPHS senior, Josue Vega, won the TX01 District Congressional Art Contest on Sunday, December 8 at The Longview Museum of Fine Arts. His piece will be displayed at the United States Capitol for a year. He has won two Southwest Airline tickets for himself and a guest to fly to Washington D.C. for the unveiling in the summer of 2025.

He also received a gift card for \$200 for art supplies, donated by Eastman Chemicals and Eastman Credit Union. Vega's piece, *The Boys*, is a tribute to Vega's uncles when they were younger.

The Congressional Art Contest, now in its 43rd year, is a nationwide art competition for high school students. To enter, students submit entries to their representative's office, and panels of district artists select the winning entries. Mount Pleasant is in the 1st Congressional District of Texas, represented by Congressman Nathaniel Moran. Congressman Moran's district encompasses 17 counties in the northeast corner of the state running along the border between Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

The 1st place pieces from each district are displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol in the Cannon Tunnel. The tunnel is the most highly traveled access point between the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Capitol. Every day, members of Congress, distinguished visitors, and tens of thousands of tourists – from the United States and abroad – walk through the tunnel and admire the artwork.

"I would like to congratulate Josue Vega for receiving first place in the 2025 Congressional Art Competition hosted by Congressman Nathaniel Moran," said MPHS art teacher, Laura Kirkland. "This year out



From left are Moran, Vega and Tiffany Jehorek, Executive Director and Curator of Exhibitions for the Longview Museum of Fine Arts.

of several students across East Texas, there were 2 Honorable Mentions, 3rd, 2nd, and our very own 1st place winner, Josue Vega. I would like to thank Congressman Nathaniel Moran for hosting this event. Also, Tara Baker and all her helpers for organizing, and finally, thank you to the contributors for the prizes."

Vega has been a student in the MPISD art program for five years. After graduation, he is planning to either attend an auto mechanic or electrical trade school for an established career and is considering pursuing art on the side.

He is the son of Jose Valentin Vega and Mary Cardenas.

Seniors vote for superlative honors

By KRISTINA TIDWELL
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The following seniors were selected for senior superlatives by their classmates.

Mr. and Miss MPHS - Luke Thurman and Karina Torres

Most Athletic - Boys: Reggie Webster, Juy-mill Lewis, and Jonathan Amieva; Girls: Autumn Leroy, Eva Hampton, and Karina Torres

Most Talented - Boys: Josue Vega, Luke Thurman, and Christo Escalante; Girls: Addison Heeren, Dori Macedo, and Jalyssa Aguilar

Most Likely To Succeed - Boys: Luke Thurman, Tanner Marshall, and Samuel Chappell; Girls: Gopi Amin, Diya Desai, and Yahaira Pina

Best Personality - Boys: Hayden Tennison, Ramiro Gonzalez, and Amir Martinez; Girls: Cinthya Ramirez, Patricia Gonzalez, and Dori Macedo

Best Fashion - Boys: Adrian Castro, Hayden Tennison, and Luis Alvarado; Girls: Fatima Villalva, Dollian Phan, and Allison Nieto

Best Smile - Boys: Hector Salazar, Jesus Moreno, and Zayden Martinez; Girls: Jeseth Moreal, Kelsey Howard, and Bianca Garcia

Standout School Spirit - Boys: Rafael Calderon, Samuel Chappell, and Jonathan Amieva; Girls: Kate Ball, Kit Thompson, and Gopi Amin

Most Changed - Brayden Middleton, Eder Alonso, and Diego Ugalde; Girls: Gabby Gar-

za, Fatima Villalva, and Madison Zepeda

Drama King and Queen - Boys: Rafael Calderon, Kevin Mendoza, and Jeffery Bond; Girls: Saneay Eaves, Ilsy Pintor, and Ke'Aundra Evans

Most Likely To Be Late - Boys: Christopher Sorto, Roel Perez, and Jovan Desantiago; Girls: Osiris Vargas, Ashley Ortiz, and Haley Zavala

Best Friends Forever - Boys: Frankie Rodriguez-Sam Chappell, Christian Johnson-Hayden Hester, and Kevin Mendoza-Jeffery Bond; Girls: Dollian Phan-Emely Chavelas, Haley Carr-Kristina Tidwell, Jeseth Monreal-Xitlaly Sanchez and Madison Hargrove-Kit Thompson.



New inductees into the 2024-2025 National Honor Society

NHS holds induction ceremony

Twelve seniors and eighty-two juniors were inducted into the Mount Pleasant High School chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) during a special ceremony on Tuesday, November 12 in the Mount Pleasant High School Auditorium. The new members join the forty-six returning senior members of the chapter bringing the total membership to 140.

To be inducted into NHS, a student must have earned a weighted cumulative GPA of 5.10 and must meet certain service and character standards, exemplified in behavior and personal conduct both on and off campus. The NHS inducts students who meet the criteria in their junior or senior year during the fall semester.

Officers of the MPHS Chapter are President Luke Thurman, Vice President Gopi Amin, Secretary Diya Desai, Treasurer Addison Heeren, Parliamentarian Gabriela Garza and Historian Christopher Sorto.

The 2024-2025 new members are:

Senior Inductees: Emely Chavelas, Jazlynn Juarez, Jasmine Landaverde, Kevin Mendoza, Jeseth Monreal, Bryanna Nava, Jennifer Pena, Manuel Ramirez, Misely Ramirez, Emily Robles, Xitlaly Sanchez, and Emma Sanders.

Junior Inductees: Brissia Alvarez, Osiel Andrade, Preston Arnold, Alberto Avila, Lucero Ayala, William Baker, Joshua Bello, Aiyanna Brumfield, Brandon Carter, Valerie Cassio, Violet Castaneda, Kaylie Castillo, Alyse Cervantes, Julian Chancellor, Judson Colley, Carter Cook, Nathan Copado, Andrew Covey, Sanniyah Crabtree, Aaliyah De La Rosa, Bruno De Leon, Neftali Delgado, Sofia Estrada, Angel Farias, Sandy Farias, Abril Figueroa, Audrey Fisher, Ava True Fite, Angel Flores, Isaac Flores, Mayte Flores, Juan Gallegos, Ashley Garcia, Emily Garcia, Audrey Garrett, Jai-

me Garrett, Raquel Garza, Anthony Gonzalez, Atalee Gonzalez, Austin Gonzalez, Esther Gonzalez, Alessandro Greco, Alejandro Guerrero, Ja'Liyah Hall, Aylin Hernandez, Evelyn Hernandez, Nayeli Hernandez, Marisol Hipolito, Emileigh Hobbs, Alston Jeff, Isaac Jetton, Celeste Landin, Ana Lara, Marley Lopez, Mollie Luck, Jennifer Luna, Deleismy Martinez, Jaydy Martinez, Kynslee Mayben, Chelsea Mendoza, Mattie Merriman, Ashley Monreal, Aidan Perez, Alex Perez, Esmeralda Perez, Maribel Ramirez, Carmandy Rocha, Karlee Rodgers, Leinad Rodriguez, Alondra Ruiz, Alondra Santos, A'Shad Smith, Kortland Stovall, Kylee Strickland, Kevin Urbina, Wendy Valdez, Jonathan Valerio, Valeria Vega, Zuleyka Velez, Emily Ventura, Bennett Wall, and Francisco Zapata.

Returning Senior members of the MPHS NHS Chapter are Rachel Albin, Jorge Almazon, Luis Alvarado, Jasmin Alvarez, Natalia Aspeitia, Katherine Ball, Melanie Barraza, Veronica Bernardino, Elizabeth Buck, Samuel Chappell, Evan Cota, Jose Gonzalez, Patricia Gonzalez, Jessica Hang, Sidney Harbour, Madison Hargrove, Eli Hernandez, Karen Hernandez, Hayden Hester, Kelsey Howard, Christian Johnson, Tanner Marshall, Amir Martinez, Raquel Martinez, Kevin Mendoza, Jesus Moreno, Allison Nieto, Dollian Phan, Daniela Pina, Yahaira Pina, Cinthya Ramirez, Kaylee Ramos, Francisco Rodriguez, Michelle Sandoval, Amy Santillan, Araceli Solis, Avanleigh Thomas, Katherine Thompson, Diego Ugalde, and Johnathan Ventura.

Members of the MPHS National Honor Society Faculty Council are LeAnne Blalock, Todd Burns, Gina Crouch, Wendy Gonzalez, Kristi Houchin, Ann Jenkins, Ana Munoz, and Larry Russell. The MPHS National Honor Society Advisors are David Clark and Angela Priefert.



New inductees into the 2024-2025 National Technical Honor Society

NTHS inducts 61 new members

Sixty-one Mount Pleasant High School students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) at a candle-light ceremony on Monday, November 11 in the MPHS auditorium.

To be a member of NTHS, a student must be enrolled in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) class, meet a set cumulative weighted GPA, be a member of a CTE organization (FBLA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, FFA, FCCLA, TPSA), complete service hours, and maintain a clean discipline record. The 61 new members join the 33 returning senior members bringing the total membership to 94 juniors and seniors.

NTHS officers for 2024-2025 are President Francisco Rodriguez, Vice President Ke'Aundra Evans, Secretary Addison Heeren, Treasurer Jennifer Pena, Historian Jesus Moreno, Officer at Large Araceli Solis, and Parliamentarian Jasmine Landaverde.

Returning seniors include Rachel Albin, Gopi Amin, Natalia Aspeitia, Veronica Bernardino, Elizabeth Buck, Ariana Cruz, Diya Desai, Maleah Duenez, Steffanie Espiritu, Patricia Gonzalez, Jessica Hang, Madison Hargrove, Eli Hernandez, Karen Hernandez, Kelsey Howard, Raquel Martinez, Kevin Mendoza, Allison Nieto, Kimberly Ramirez, Manuel Ramirez, Kaylee Ramos, Xitlaly Sanchez, Michelle Sandoval, Amy Santillan, Christopher Sorto, and Kimberly Victoria Pantoja.

The new inductees are Leinad Aguilar, Elise Alcibar, Jorge Almazan, Brissia Alvarez, Preston Arnold, Aiyanna Brumfield, Rafael Calderon, Nikolas Campbell, Christopher Canada, Andy Carillo, Kaylie Castillo, Jennifer Castro, Zoey Cato, Alessandra Cervantes, Samuel Chappell, Emely Chavelas, Neftali Delgado, Megan Denson, Sofia Estrada, Angel Farias, Angel Flores, Isaac Flores, Juan Gallegos, Ashley Garcia, Christopher Garcia, Emily Garcia, Raquel Garza, Atalee Gonzalez, Austin Gonzalez, Stephanie Guerrero, Nayeli Hernandez, Yahir Hernandez, Marisol Hernandez, Emileigh Hobbs, Andres Jaimes,



NTHS Officers from left are Officer at Large Araceli Solis, Parliamentarian Jasmine Landaverde, Secretary Addison Heeren, President Francisco Rodriguez, Vice President Ke'Aundra Evans, Treasurer Jennifer Pena, and Historian Jesus Moreno.

Alston Jeff, William Johnson, Celeste Landin, Addyson Long, Rosario Lopez, Jennifer Luna, Amir Martinez, Jeseth Monreal, Bryanna Nava, Abi Pathak, Ashley Pena, Aidan Perez, Cristian Perez, Esmeralda Perez, Ailin Quinonez, Laura Ramirez, Mисely Ramirez, Tania Rangel, Karlee Rodgers, Alondra Santos, Jayden Tarrant, Yasmin Trejo, Diego Ugalde, Yair Vega, Zuleyka Velez, and Francisco Zapata.

Providing entertainment for the evening was vocal soloist, Mattie Merriman assisted by Kevin Mendoza on sound and stage management. Advisor for the organization is CTE teacher Donna Davis, with CTE Director Jay Silman.



MPHS Congressional Debate team from left are Natalia Aspeitia, MPHS Debate coach Joel Whitaker, Gopi Amin, Sabrina Otero-Svirska, Caitlin Anderson and Raquel Garza.

Congressional debaters advance to state

Mount Pleasant High School Speech and Debate competed in the Regional Congressional Debate tournament at the Region VIII Education Service Center on Nov. 6.

For the third year in a row, Mount Pleasant was the only 5A school competing. So, the competition was an intrasquad battle for who would earn the top three places and advance to state. MPHS has had a state competitor every year since 2017 and team members have earned UIL state bronze and state 4th place medals and have had the UIL State Top Presiding Officer and multiple state finalists in recent years.

Senior Gopi Amin was the Regional Champion with sophomore Sabri-

na Otero-Svirska placing 2nd and senior Natalia Aspeitia placing 3rd, qualifying all three for the state competition.

Junior Raquel Garza placed 4th and is the first alternate to state with junior Caitlin Anderson placing 5th. This will be the second trip to state for Amin and Otero-Svirska.

UIL Congress is an individual contest in a large group setting. It models the legislative process of democracy, specifically, the United States Congress.

Within this mock legislative assembly competition, contestants draft legislation (proposed laws and position statements) submitted to the tournament, and they research the docket of bills and

resolutions dealing with real-world social and political policies prior to the contest to prepare their speeches.

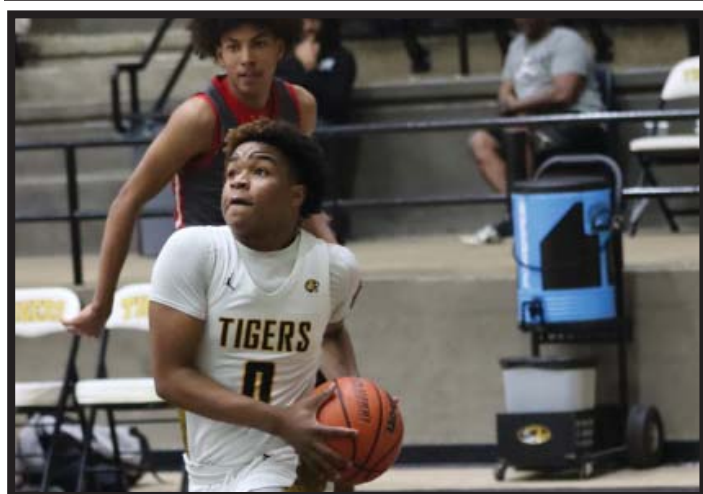
At the tournament, students caucus in committees, deliver formal discourse on the merits and disadvantages of each piece of legislation, and vote to pass or defeat the measures they have examined. Parliamentary procedure forms structure for the discourse, and students extemporaneously respond to others' arguments over the course of a session.

Amin, Otero-Svirska, and Aspeitia will compete at the UIL State Congressional Debate tournament in Austin on Jan. 6-8, 2025. MP Speech and Debate is coached by Joel Whitaker.

CHRISTMAS PARADE



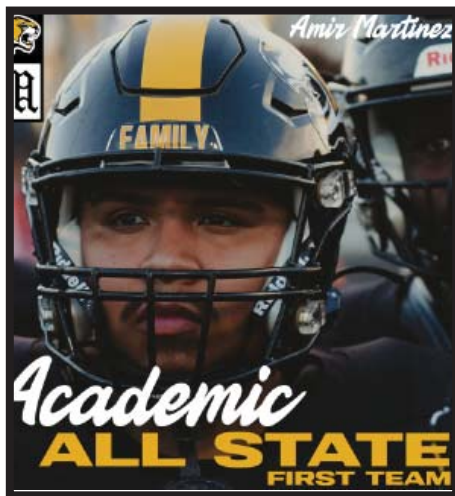
Basketball season underway



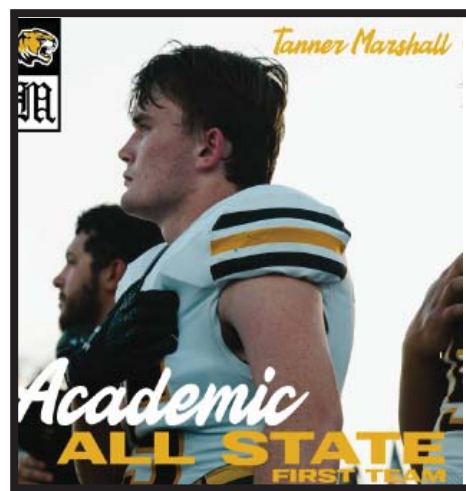
Five football players earn Academic All-State awards

Five Mount Pleasant High School football players were recently announced as members of the All-State Football Teams.

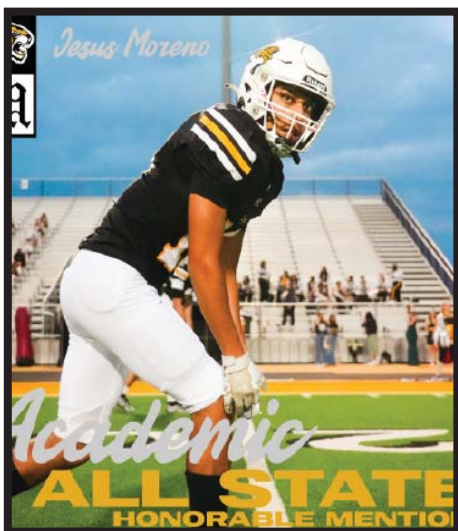
They include Tanner Marshall (1st team), Amir Martinez (1st team), Jonathan Amieva (Honorable Mention), Evan Cota (Honorable Mention), and Jesus Moreno (Honorable Mention).



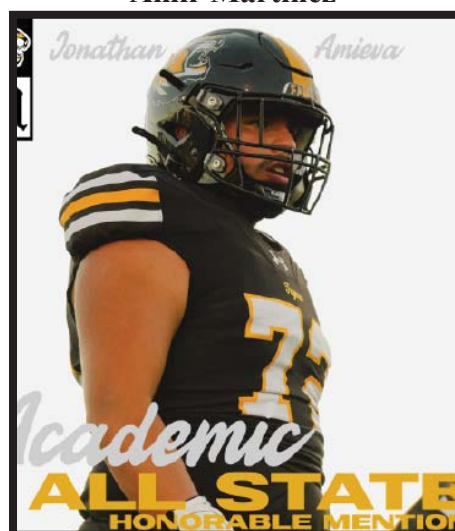
Amir Martinez



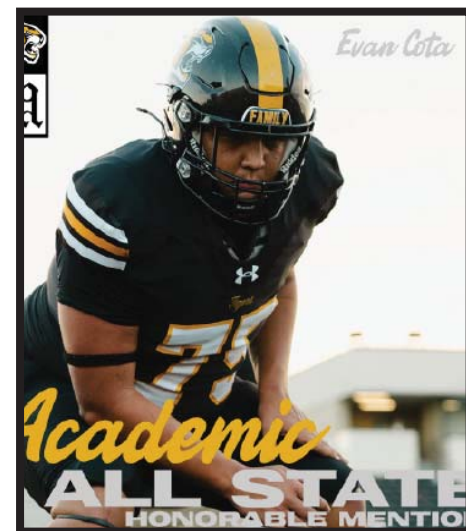
Tanner Marshall



Jesus Moreno



Jonathan Amieva



Evan Cota

Ag, Engineering students collaborate on project

The MPHS Ag Mechanics and Engineering classes recently collaborated to build a project for the MPISD Administration Building. The students were tasked with creating a wall hanging depicting the MPISD logo.

Engineering students drew the MPISD logo using Computer-Aided Design (CAD), a way to digitally create 2D drawings and 3D models of real-world products before they're ever manufactured. The engineering students modified the design to cut properly and set it up in the plasma cutter computer.



Aidyn Botello, Gunner Rodgers, Jonathan Dalby, Jose Gonzalez, Engineering teacher Jack Jones, and Ag Mechanics teacher Rance White.

The Ag Mechanics students set the metal up on the plasma cutter, processed the file (cut it out with the machine), then finished the job by cleaning the slag off the cuts before the sign

was powder coated by Diamond C.

The students were advised and guided by Engineering teacher, Jack Jones, and Ag Mechanics teacher, Rance White.

Getting to know Ms. Mata

By DANIELE CULVINAR
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Each issue of the Tigertalk, the newspaper staff features a different teacher. This issue puts the spotlight on Liliana Mata who teaches Spanish. The following questions give more insight about Ms. Mata.

Why did you become a teacher?

I became a teacher because I have a passion for helping others learn and grow. Making a positive impact on even one student, or on all of them, is rewarding in itself.

What subjects do you teach and why?

I teach Spanish, and it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up.

What was the most challenging thing you had encountered when you started teaching?

The most challenging thing was adjusting to a whole new work environment, as I was switching professions.

What is your favorite part of teaching?

My favorite part of teaching is doing projects in class. You get to see what students have learned being put to use, while also seeing their creative side.

How was your education and what was challenging about it?

My education was a bit challenging at times. I was trying to balance doing homework, being a mom, and working a full-time job.

How do you balance out personal life and work?

The way I balance my personal and work life is pretty simple. I try not to bring much of it home. If I have tasks that need to be completed, I'll stay and finish them. Once I'm home, my attention goes to my children. There are times, however, when I do answer emails from parents or students at home.

What piece of advice would you give to an aspiring teacher?

I would tell an aspiring teacher be patient.

How do you motivate students?

I always try to encourage my students to do their best in anything they have going on.

How have your methods evolved/improved over the years?

My methods are always evolving and improving. I am always finding new ways to teach.

What was your favorite assignment you gave to your students?

This year, instead of having my students introduce themselves to the class, I had them write a full-page paper telling me about themselves. They had to tell me about their favorite color, food, candy, etc.

How do you handle struggling students?



Mata

I try to give them as much one on one time.

What do you do in your free time?

During my free time, I enjoy listening to music. I usually go to Starbucks for a refresher or Huey's for an energy drink.

What is the best place you had vacation at?

The best vacation I had was at Disney World. The excitement on my children's faces was priceless.

What is your favorite type of music and artist/band?

My favorite type of music and artist/band is hard to narrow down, because I listen to a variety of music. A few of my favorite artists are Bad Bunny, KAROL G, Eminem, HUMBE, Goo Goo Dolls, and Aventura.

What was your favorite subject in school?

My favorite subject in school was math. I always thought that if I ever became a teacher, it would be related to math.

How long have you been teaching?

This is my second year teaching.

If you weren't a teacher, what would you like as a career and why?

If I weren't a teacher, I would still be working at a financial institution, because that's what I was doing before becoming a teacher.

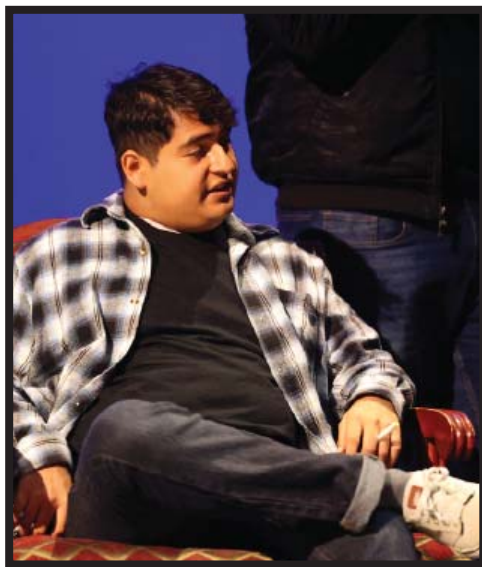
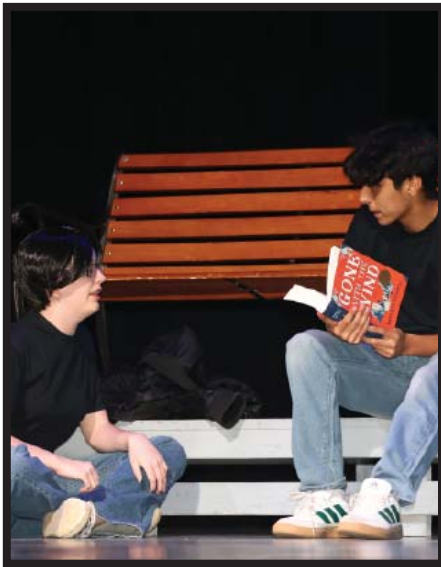
What is your favorite holiday and why?

My favorite holiday has to be Thanksgiving. I love setting the table with everyone's name and having one long table for all of us to sit at. I enjoy everyone sitting together and enjoying each other's company.

What do you like best about your job?

My students make my job rewarding.

Theatre presents 'The Outsiders'



2024-2025 Class Favorites



Seniors Jennifer Pena and Luke Thurman



Juniors Audrey Fisher and Julian Chancellor



Sophomores Selena Cruz and BJ Brannon



Freshmen Marley Broach and Ashton Murphy

Tiger Dolls collect items for CIS

For the fifth year in a row, the Mount Pleasant High School Tiger Dolls shared their love for their classmates by donating personal care items to the Communities in Schools (CIS) program at MPHS.

“These Dolls not only demand excellence for themselves, they also have huge hearts and always take the time to help others around them,” said Jennifer Lide, CIS board member and the Voice of The Tiger Dolls. “I am amazed at all the Tiger Dolls accomplish each year.”



MPHS CIS Coordinators Kelsey Cameron, Juliana Flores, and the MPHS Tiger Dolls with some of the items collected.

Communities in Schools of Northeast Texas works to bring resources into the schools, making them more accessible to children and

families, helping students to overcome barriers to their success. CIS takes donations all year long. Contact your local school to contribute.

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!

*NTCC is a proud partner
of Mt. Pleasant
High School!*



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Tiger Roar

What was your favorite Christmas present when you were growing up?

Page by Tigertalk Staff Writers Jasmine Briones and Kristina Tidwell



“A skateboard”
-- Anahi Barbosa, 12



“American Girl Dolls”
-- Natalie Hines, 10



“Coloring books”
-- Rafael Calderon, 12



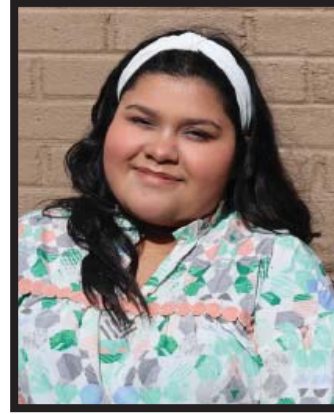
“A bike.”
--- Landon Cheatum, 10



“Skylanders Inagimators on Xbox”
-- Tanner Marshall, 12



“Barbies with their Dreamhouses”
-- Haley Carr, 12



“Lisa Frank coloring books.”
-- Ilsy Pintor, 12



“My first Leapfrog tablet”
-- Camauri Burwell, 10



“First Four-Wheeler”
--- Hailey Balderas, 12



“Go-karts.”
--- Mr. Adams, Principal



“A toy kitchen set”
--- Mrs. Adams, teacher



“A rooster”
--- Mr. Guzman, teacher