

Tigertalk



Valedictorian Brissia Alvarez
Salutatorian Alessandro Greco



Tiger Dolls Spring Show



Honors Dinner

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Chism, Jones sign letters of intent for college sports

On Wednesday, May 6, two Mount Pleasant High School seniors signed Letters of Intent to play soccer and football at the collegiate level. Jazlynn Chism signed to play soccer at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla. And Tyland Jones signed to play football at Austin College in Sherman.

Pictured above is Tyland Jones with members of the football coaching staff.

At right is Chism flanked by MPHS soccer coaches David Zaldivar and Krissa Woods.



Tigertalk NEWS STAFF

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Russell is Teacher of the Year

By ALOANI LABOY
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Dual credit Algebra and AP statistics teacher Karen Russell has been named MPHS Teacher of the year.

Born in Mount Pleasant, Russell has worked hard throughout her career to give her students the best education that she can provide. She has attended Stephen F. Austin State University Administration and East Texas A&M University. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting & Office Administration from SFA and her Master of Science in Secondary and Higher Education in East Texas A&M.

"I am deeply honored to be selected as Teacher of the Year by my peers. To be recognized by the colleagues that I respect and work with everyday means a lot. I am grateful to be part of such an inspiring group of educators," Russell said.

Her previous jobs in district or other school systems have been 36 years at MPHS teaching algebra, geometry, pre-cal, and statistics and coordinating scholarships. She has also taught 4 years of math at Chapel Hill.

Russell is married to Larry Russell, our Dual Credit and AP Physics teacher.

They have three children/spouses and 4 grandchildren: (son) Cody Russell and wife Conoly and children, Campbell and Crosby, (Daughter) Macy Honeycutt and husband



Russell

Ethan and daughter Evlyn, (daughter) Cassidy Portwood and husband Cameron and son Casen.

When asked about what she likes most about teaching at MPHS, she responded with, "What I value most about working in this district is our shared commitment to student success. It's great to be part of a district that prioritizes both ac-

See Russell, Pg. 10

Brown is Employee of the Year

By DANIELE CULVINAR
Tigertalk Staff Writer

High School 504 & RTI Coordinator and Student Council Sponsor Camille Brown has been named MPHS Employee of the Year.

Brown was born in Metairie, Louisiana and grew up in Little Rock, Ark. She attended Ouachita Baptist University in Computer Science with a double minor in Business and Accounting. She earned her teaching certificate through Region 7 Education Service Center in Kilgore.

Getting honored was a surprise to her.

"I was completely shocked, surprised, and honored to receive this recognition," Brown said. "I am definitely not about recognition to myself and like to be in the background, so it was very touching that my peers saw otherwise! I could not do my job without everyone's help and collaboration so that I can assist my students in the best way possible!"

Brown has worked at the high school in the same position for five years. She has previously taught High School BIM I, BIM II,



Brown

Money Matters, Accounting, Principles of Business. Marketing, Finance, and Music Appreciation. She has also taught Junior High Technology, English, Choir, Theater,

See Brown, Pg. 11

Tigertalk Pg. 3

Alvarez is 2026 valedictorian

By ABRIL FIGUEROA
Tigertalk Staff Writer

It is an honor to be named valedictorian; it shows others all the hard work you put into your high school career.

Brissia Alvarez has earned the honor of being named valedictorian for the senior Class of 2026. Brissia is the daughter of Nelsi Hernandez and Jorge Alvarez.

For Alvarez, receiving this honor is “such an incredible achievement, as it represents all the hard work, dedication, and perseverance it took to get here. Throughout my high school journey, I faced many challenges, but this achievement reminds me that staying consistent and pushing through difficult moments truly pays off. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity, and it is something I will always be proud of and carry with me as I move forward.”

Throughout her high school career, Brissia has been highly involved in academics and leadership. She served as National Honor Society Secretary, Student Council Vice President, FBLA Chapter President, HOSA Secretary, and Student Body President, as well as Chick-fil-A Leader Academy Planning Committee Captain. She also competed in UIL Academics, qualifying for regionals and state in multiple events. In addition, she earned certifications in CPR and First Aid, Electrocardiograph Technician, and Certified Clinical Medical Assistant, along with numerous honors including College Board Recognition Awards and Academic Blankets.

Alvarez plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin, where she will major in biochemistry on a pre-medical track. She will be part of the Polymathic Scholars honors program in the College of Natural Sciences.

She credits her success to those around her, saying, “What motivated my success was the constant support and encouragement from the people around me. I want to sincerely thank my friends, their families, my boyfriend and his family, my teachers, and my own family for always believing in me and encouraging me to



Alvarez will attend UT in the fall and major in biochemistry.

do my best, even during times when I seriously doubted myself.”

Her biggest role model is her mother. “My biggest role model is my mom. To me, she represents what it means to work hard and stay committed to your goals. She has never let exhaustion or challenges stop her from doing what she needs to do and continuing to move forward... She has influenced the way I handle challenges and continues to motivate me to keep pushing myself to succeed.”

Some of her favorite high school memories include “FBLA State Trip 2024 in Galveston, UIL State Trip 2025 in Austin, and my junior prom—basically anytime I was surrounded by friends.”

Her favorite class was Calculus. “Calculus with Mrs. Jenkins! Although the class itself was challenging, it had to be my favorite because I was surrounded by amazing people who made the class

See Alvarez, Pg. 11

Greco is 2026 salutatorian

By CHELSEA MENDOZA
Tigertalk Staff Writer

As graduation approaches, the Class of 2026 prepares to step beyond high school and move forward into the next stage of their lives.

Leading this year's class as salutatorian is Alessandro Greco. Alessandro is the son of Dr. Anthony and Ana Greco. Although the journey to the top of his class required dedication and consistency, it is an achievement he valued deeply.

"It means the world to me to receive this honor because it's a privilege for others to recognize the diligence I've applied to my studies," Greco said.

Greco will be attending the University of Texas at Austin's McCombs School of Business, where he plans to major in the Canfield Business Honors Program.

Throughout his high school career, Greco has been highly involved and accomplished. He served as Texas FBLA Area VI State Vice President, NHS President, Student Council member, and Student Body Vice President. He participated in UIL Math and Film, varsity swim, and varsity golf, and was a member of the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy. His achievements include Academic All-State Swimmer, multiple academic blankets in AP World History, Dual Credit U.S. History, and AP Environmental Science, as well as being recognized as Mr. MPHS.

Greco said his motivation came from his sisters. "I was motivated by my sisters Isabella and Sophie because they were both extremely successful in high school by finishing at the top of their classes, and I wanted to emulate that same ambition," Greco said.

He also credits his parents as his role models.

"My mom and dad are both role models for not only being amazing parents, but also having staggering work ethics. My mom, especially, stunned me by possessing an unrelenting drive to take care of my sisters despite exhaustion," Greco said.



Greco will major in business at the University of Texas

While Greco has achieved great success, he reflects on his high school experience with perspective.

"I wish I could have stopped and enjoyed the little moments of school more instead of letting my work take priority," Greco said.

His favorite memories include spending time with friends, having dinner with his family every night, and helping organize and lead the 2026 Texas FBLA State Leadership Conference.

"I loved AP World History because it was always fun and interesting every time I was in there," Greco said.

Outside of academics, Greco enjoys listening to vinyl records, playing video games, reading, watching soccer and hockey, and sleeping. Greco said his hardest class was physics.

"Even though I also liked this class, it has to be physics because of the complex

See Greco , Pg. 11

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Class of 2026

Top 10 Percent Graduates



Brissia Alvarez
Valedictorian



Alessandro Greco
Salutatorian

Remainder in alphabetical order



Alberto Avila



Jacob Baker



Valerie Cassio



Daniel Castillo



Julian Chancellor



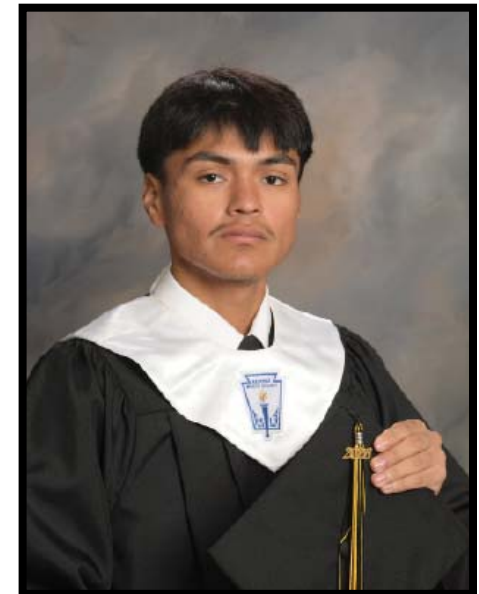
Carter Cook



Sanniyah Crabtree



Aaliyah Delarosa



Angel Farias



Sandy Farias



Abril Figueroa



Audrey Fisher



Ava Fite



Isaac Flores



Juan Gallegos



Emily Garcia



Audrey Garrett



Jamie Garrett



Evelyn Hernandez



Marisol Hipolito



Jordan Krumrie



Ana Lara



Mollie Luck



Jennifer Luna



Jaydy Martinez



Miah Melendez



Mattie Merrimann



Valerie Moss



Abi Pathak



Esmeralda Perez



Maribel Ramirez



Carmandy Rocha



Karlee Rodgers

Russell

from Page 3

ademic achievement and the well-being of everyone in the school community.”

She was also asked what she liked best about her job.

“The part of my job that I like best is helping students build confidence in their mathematical abilities. Watching them move from frustration to understanding --- and realizing they’re capable of more than they thought --- is very rewarding,” Russell said.



Alondra Santos



Kortland Stovall

2026 Magna Cum Laude grads announced

In addition to the Top 10 percent, a select number of students were recognized as Magna Cum Laude honorees for Mount Pleasant High School.

Apart from the Top 10 Percent, a grand total of 50 students earned Magna Cum Laude recognition signifying they achieved a grade point average of between 8.0-5.62.

These students are Joshua Bello, Alex Perez, Marely Lopez, Gerldine Zermeño, Joseline Herandez, Valeria Vega, Angel Flores, Neftali Delgado, Bella Reyes, Judson COLley, Alejandro Guerrero, Christopher Canada, Wendy Valdez, Valerie Colocho, Ashley Garcia,

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Francisco Zapata, Bruno Deleon, Kylee Strickland, Esther Gonzalez, Preston Arnold, Chelsea Plascencia-Mendoza, Aidan Perez, Mackenzie Jaime, Alondra Ruiz, Liliana Cruz, Andres Jaimes, Zuleyka Velez, Angel Castillo, Connor Lewis, Ethan Carrillo, Jose Vargas, Yahir Hernandez, Celeste Landin, Luce-ro Ayala, Ailen Quinonez, AlyseCervantes, Alston Jeff, Leinad Rodriguez, Brandon Carter, Angel Chavez, Peyton Robinson, Aylin Hernandez, Cambria Malone, Maria Garcia, Emily Vanhooser, Gunner Rodgers, Arnoldo Amador, Kynslee Mayben, Keith Standefer and Rosario Lopez.



Greco

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topics we had to learn and how I found myself struggling at times,” Greco said.

As graduation approaches, Greco offers advice to underclassmen. “It might sound cliché, but don’t be afraid to try new things. Knowing what you actually like and don’t like is how you become someone you want to be,” Greco said.

Being named valedictorian is an honor that reflects years of hard work and determination, and Greco will carry those lessons with him as he begins his future at UT Austin.

Alvarez from Page 4

fun and a teacher who never gave up on us.”

Her most challenging course was AP Physics C. “It covered some of the most complex and challenging material I’ve taken. However, once I began to understand it, I found it very interesting.”

If she could do anything differently, she says, “I

would have spent more time enjoying the moment instead of always worrying about the next assignment or test. High school goes by quickly, and some of the best memories come from the simple everyday moments.”

Outside of school, Alvarez enjoys drawing, arts and crafts, reading, listen-

ing to music, and watching lesser-known horror movies.

Her advice to underclassmen is simple: “Procrastination will be your worst enemy. I know it’s hard, but try not to procrastinate on assignments. Starting your work ahead of time will do you better in the long run.”

Brown from Page 3

and coached Volleyball, Cross Country, Track, and taught 5th grade Science.

She said what she likes about working here is the goal of encouraging students, getting them to meet graduation.

“I love encouraging students, helping students strive to meet their end goal

of graduation, helping them to be accountable for their education and being able to provide different ways for them to be successful in class. I am so proud when my students cross the stage at graduation knowing they completed their goal and that I was able to help them along the way.”

She loves the people she works with, and the atmosphere and culture at MPHS.

She has been married for 38 years to her husband BJ, her daughter Tiffany and her husband Jake with their 8 month old daughter Tatum, son Daniel and fiancée Alyssa, daughter Ashley and her husband Riley.



MPHS Class of 2026 Top Ten Percent Honor Graduates

Top 10 percent honor graduates recognized

Thirty-eight Mount Pleasant High School seniors were honored at a formal recognition dinner on Thursday, May 7 at the Region 8 Education Service Center. The event was catered by Creative Catering with members of the National Honor Society and Student Council serving as wait staff. Each student was introduced and given their Honor Graduate cord and tassel.

They were also able to honor their most influential teacher with an audio recording thanking that educator and presented them a special gift. Each senior wrote a message to their teacher which was then engraved onto a small flowerpot by MPHS teacher Jack Jones and his Engineering students.

The top 10% Honor Graduates of the MPHS Class of 2026:

Valedictorian- Brissia Alvarez is the 2026 MPHS Valedictorian. She will attend The University of Texas at Austin and major in Biochemistry. Brissia honored Gabrielle Robbins.

Salutatorian- Alessandro Greco is the 2026 MPHS Salutatorian. He will at-

tend the McCombs School of Business in the Canfield Honors Program at The University of Texas at Austin. He honored Larry Russell.

Top 10% Honor Graduates (listed alphabetically)

Alberto Avila - Alberto will attend Texas Christian University to major in finance to become a financial planner. He honored Coach Jason Mayfield.

Jacob Baker - Jacob will attend Texas A&M Texarkana to play golf and major in accounting. He honored Lindy Merriman.

Valerie Cassio - Valerie will attend the University of Texas at Arlington, majoring in Nursing. She honored Josh Blackstone.

Daniel Castillo, Jr. - Daniel will attend Independent Electrical Contractors, studying to become an electrician. He honored Tim Davis.

Julian Chancellor - Julian will attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in Mechanical Engineering. He honored Osias Hernandez.

Carter Cook - Carter will attend the University of Arkansas to study exercise science and pursue a career as a physical therapist. He honored Coach Malik Babaa.

Sanniyah Crabtree - will attend Texas A&M University at College Station to major in psychology on a pre-nursing track to become a CRNA. She honored Chelsea Loftin.

Aaliyah Delarosa - Aaliyah will attend NTCC and then transfer to a university to obtain her doctorate in nursing to become a CRNA. She honored Angela Denmon.

Angel Farias - Angel will attend Texas A&M University at College Station to major in mechanical engineering. He honored Jack Jones.

Sandy Farias - Sandy will attend Texas A&M University at College Station to get her bachelor's of science in nursing. She honored Hugo Uribe.

Abril Figueroa Ruiz - Abril will attend NTCC and major in psychology. She honored John Whitten.

Audrey Fisher - Audrey will attend Oklahoma State University and major in Communication Sciences and Disorders and get her master's degree to become a speech pathologist. She honored Shelley Bloomer.

Ava True Fite - Ava will attend Texas A&M at College Station. See Graduates, Pg. 13

Graduates from Page 12

Station and major in Society, Ethics, and Law (Pre-Law) to eventually attend Law School to obtain her Juris Doctor and become an attorney. She honored Amanda Hutchings.

Isaac Flores - Isaac will attend Texas A&M University at College Station and major in Biomedical Engineering. He honored Jack Jones.

Juan Gallegos - Juan will attend University of Texas at Dallas and major in mechanical engineering. He honored Lindy Merriman.

Emily Garcia - Emily will attend NTCC, then transfer to Texas A&M at College Station to pursue a Nursing BSN. She honored Hugo Uribe.

Audrey Garrett - Audrey will attend Texas A&M University at College Station Texas and major in Biology in hopes of becoming a veterinarian. She honored Jatón Broach.

Jamie Garrett - Jamie will attend NTCC and major in accounting. She honored Alexis Sampson.

Raquel Garza Aguirre - Raquel will attend Texas State University and major in Social Work. She honored Abraham Ramirez.

Evelyn Hernandez - Evelyn will attend the University of Texas at Austin and study Advertising. She honored Gabrielle Robbins.

Marisol Hipolito - Marisol will major in Kinesiology. She honored Shelby Criss.

Jordan Krumrie - Jordan will attend NTCC to major in Biology. She honored Sarah Carrell.

Ana Lara - Ana will attend NTCC for 2 years to get her RN and then transfer to UT Tyler to get her BSN in nursing. She honored Sarah Carrell.

Mollie Luck - Mollie will



Mollie Luck with honored teacher Ann Jenkins

attend Texas A&M at College Station to study Economics. She honored Ann Jenkins.

Jennifer Luna - Jennifer will attend the University of Southern California and major in Health and Human Sciences. She honored Gina Crouch.

Jaydy Martinez - Jaydy will attend NTCC and major in Nursing. She honored Laura Kirkland.

Miah Melendez - Miah will attend NTCC and then transfer to University of Texas at San Antonio. She honored Jennifer Mora.

Mattie Merriman - Mattie will attend Baylor University and major in science. She honored Sadonna Stinson.

Valerie Moss - Valerie will attend NTCC and then transfer to Texas A&M at College Station to become a vet tech. She honored Laura Kirkland.

Abi Pathak - Abi will attend Oklahoma City University. She honored Tammie Tigert.

Esmeralda Perez - Esmeralda will attend the University of Texas at Tyler and ma-



Carter Cook with honored Coach Malik Babaa

major in Criminal Justice. She honored Scott Crouch.

Maribel Ramirez - Maribel will attend East Texas A&M to study Nursing. She honored Adan Gonzales.

Carmandy Rocha - Carmandy will attend NTCC to earn her degree and license as a Physical Therapist Assistant. She honored Dara Smith.

Karlee Rodgers - Karlee will attend Texas Tech University and major in Animal Science. She honored LeAnne Blalock.

Alondra Santos - Alondra will attend the University of Texas at Tyler and double major in Accounting and Finance while using her Cosmetology license she earned while attending MPHS. She honored Aleshia Rivera.

Kortland Stovall - Kortland will attend Texas State University and major in Concrete Industry Management. He honored Coach Brandon Colbert.

The MPHS Commencement Ceremony is set for Friday, May 22 at Sam Parker Stadium at 8:00 p.m.

Seniors announce future plans

By YAHIR GONZALEZ
& JASSIEL HERNANDEZ
Tigertalk Staff Writers

As the 2025-2026 school year comes to a close, seniors are looking toward their future plans for further education through college or trade school, joining the military or going into the workforce.

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

Chelsea Mendoza - After graduation, I plan to go to college and travel with my family.

Abril Figueroa - I plan to travel a bit, go to concerts, and live life to the fullest. I will also be going to college to pursue my dreams.

Jammy Estrada - My plans after graduation is getting a job and becoming a photographer.

Damaris Diaz - I want to go to beauty school work. And hopefully open my own business.

Maddox Lynch - I'm going to become an artist.

Abi Pathak - After graduation, I plan on continuing to volunteer to help people, and stay kind, even when I move to Oklahoma City. I plan on staying amazing and continue to be me.

Avery Hale - I plan to go to the University of Tyler Texas for business and photography to pursuit my dream to be a photographer.

Andres Jaimes - I intend to move to Dallas and work towards becoming a Master Electrician Under IEC.

Margarita Salinas - My future plans for after graduation is to get a job and become rich, spend time with family and friends and succeed in life overall.

Yahir Gonzales - I would



Abril Figueroa



Maddox Lynch



Ninel Ruiz



Anthony Gonzalez

like to find a job sometime after summer and save money for college.

Anthony Gonzales - I plan on go to collage and got a degree in Electrical Technology so I can became an Electrician.

Jonathan Valerio - I plan on attending Texas State Technical College in Marshall, get my associates in Advanced Manufacturing (HVAC Technician) while having photography as a hobby, hopefully a side hus-

tle (real state photograph).

Jassiel Hernandez - I want to become an artist for social media.

Ninel Ruiz - I hope to enjoy my summer. But also finally get my first job hopefully and start pursuing my Dental Hygiene Career. And still grow my photography side.

Andrea Garcia - I want to become an Esthetician.

Deleismy Martinez - I plan to attend Texas State University for two years then

See Plans, Pg. 15

Plans from Page 14

transfer to the University of Oregon and study business.

Christian Daniels - My plans are to continue welding at a trade school to earn my certificate.

Kaylie Castillo - After graduation, I plan to attend NTCC to complete my basics, and then continue my education by enrolling in Paris Radiology Technology Program.

Rosario Lopez - Attend Northeast Texas Community College and major in Business Administration.

Jahayra Chavez - I plan on attending North East Texas Community College and major nursing.

Ashley Espinoza - Attend NTCC and get my associates in Criminals of Justice.

Atalee Gonzales - Get into TJC and hopefully work as an MA get a Bachelor's degree for Radiologic Technician, maybe get into Nuclear Medicine.

Rossmeli Leyva Molina - My plans after graduation is to attend UT Tyler and maybe in Biomedical.

Wendy Valdez - Join the Army, do college to major in criminology and minor in psychology to become an FBI agent.

Preston Arnold - Go to Texas Tech to get my masters in psychology.

Ashley Garcia - Attend University of Texas at Dallas and major Accounting.

Alexsandra Garcia - Attend NTCC and major in early childhood education.

Angie Castro - Go to NTCC and pursue in early education.

Leinad Rodriguez - To attend NTCC and major in nursing while also working at an elementary in MP as a paraprofessional.

See Plans, Pg. 16



Deleismy Martinez



Kaylie Castillo



Wendy Valdez



Preston Arnold



Ashley Garcia



Leinad Rodriguez

Plans from Page 15

Emily Ortiz - I plan to attend NTCC to study Business Management then transfer to Texarkana ATM to finish my studies to one day open multiple businesses.

Celeste Landin - I plan to attend NTCC for 4 years and major in Early Education

Jose Jimenez - I plan to go to NTCC to help my career in acting and medical and also get a job to save the money in the future.

Rylea Knieriem - I plan to go to college for radiology then get a job.

Kamryn Mines - To attend University of Texas at San Antonio to get my bachelors in science of nursing.

Sadrian Cruz - I plan on attending trade school for welding.

Ailin Quinonez - I want to attend college for 4 years, then I wish to work at a hospital as a RN and help those in need.

Abigail Guerrero - I plan to attend NTCC to earn my associates degree in criminal justice, then transfer to a university for my bachelors.

Jared Duran - My plans are to become a lineman and to get my class a CDL and to get money.

Oscar Ruano - Work for a little bit then becoming a state trooper.

Diego Barrientos - After graduation I plan to go to NTCC to study to become a mechanic.

Diana Gutierrez - My future plans after graduation are to become a paraprofessional with MPHS and get my basics at NTCC.

Noah Hernandez - Attend a welding trade school, get a welding job, make a lot of money, grind, succeed, and help those in need.

See Plans, Pg. 16



Emily Ortiz



Kamryn Mines



Sadrian Cruz



Abigail Guerrero



Diana Gutierrez



Noah Hernandez

Plans from Page 16

Matthew Cano - I plan to study radiology by going to college and make a career for myself.

Miguel Rodarte - Become a complex manager at Pilgrims, if not go to a power-plant to weld.

Maritza Gonzalez - My future plans after graduation is to go to collage (TJC) and study diagnostic medical sonography so I can become a ultrasound tech.

Osbaldo Barboza - After I graduate, I plan on going to trade school in Dallas and when I graduate from there start my own company.

Sara Guerrero - My plans after high school is to become a medical assistant and then go to collage for further my career.

Armando Parra - Going to the electrical trade and going to IEC to get my journeyman's in four years and two years after that get my master license to start my own business.

Karen Alvarez - I'm going to graduate and I want to major in real estate build up from there. My next goal is to be an ultrasound tech.

Ke'miya Mims - Going to college for Phlebotomy.

Daniel Rodriguez - I am applying to Lowe's Distribution Center, and I will be applying to NTCC to get my associates in accounting.

Haylee Zaldivar - Go to college and study to become a teacher.

Katy Alas - I want to go to college and study to become a welder and real estate agent.

Aaden Luna - To go to college and focus on day trading.

Santiago Ramirez - I plan on starting on Electrical Apprenticeship, then become a master electrician and start



Osbaldo Barboza



Ke'Miya Mims



Emma Ainsworth



Richard Ramirez

my own business.

Richard Ramirez - My plans after graduation would be going to work and make money for my future and maybe get my CDL.

Emma Ainsworth - Go to NTCC veterinarian program and get a second job as a vet assistant.

Kevin Urbina - Going to the Marines.

Hazel Olvera - Lineman

School.

Austin Gonzalez - To become a master electrician.

Stephanie Rodarte - After graduation, I am going to attend NTCC for my basics, and transfer to Paris Junior collage for a degree in Radiology.

Jocelyn Zuniga - After graduation I'm going to work at a refinery as a scaffolder.



The 2026 Mount Pleasant High School Academic Blanket recipients

Academic Blankets awarded to students

Sixty-one 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 MPHS auditorium on Tuesday, May 12.

Those 61 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 include:

Accounting (1st Texas Financial Services) Therin Nunn

Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (Marmon Industrial Infrastructure & Energy) Margarita Salinas

Agriscience (Titus County Fair Association) Ashley O'Brien

Ag Mechanics (Priefert) Aurelio Santiago

Algebra I (Cypress Bank) Berenise Murillo

Algebra II (American National Bank) Leslie Hernandez

Anatomy & Physiology (Christus Health)

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Maggie Wilson

Animal Science (Mount Pleasant Animal Clinic) Gunner Rodgers

Art (EAG Auto Group) Dayanara Pulquero

Band (Luigi's) Bruno De Leon

Biology (East Texas Children's Dentistry) Zoe Zuñiga

Biology AP (Pleasant Smiles Dental) Isaac Flores

Business Information Management (Vera Bank) Alexander Andrade

Calculus (CAD Vibe) Brissia Alvarez

Career Preparation (Ferguson Wealth Management) Kevin Urbina

Chemistry (McGuire Dyke CPA's) Lincoln Dyke

Choir (Shumate Flooring) Emi Hobbs

Communications (First Federal Community Bank) Cristian Perez

Construction Technology (Stansell Construction) Cristian Cordova

Cosmetology (Prodigy Salon & Spa) Alondra Santos

Culinary Arts (Sandlin Motors) Cambria Malone

Dance (Northeast Texas Community College) Sanniyah Crabtree

Education & Training (AA's Treehouse Learning Center) Ashley Garcia

See Blankets, Pg. 19



Lincoln Dyke with the Chemistry Blanket.



Sage Jordan receives the English 1 Blanket.

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Engineering (Salinas Electric) Angel Farias

English I (Cowan Inspection) Sage Jordan

English II (Bates Cooper Sloan Funeral Home) Maria Beltran Regalado

English III (All Star Collision) Mary Beth Snyder

English IV (Ruby & Begonia) Ava Fite

Environmental Science (Northeast Texas Dermatology Center) Alessandro Greco

Environmental Systems (Republic Services) Abigail Melendez

Fashion Design (JVR Custom Paint & Body) Emily Ortiz

Forensic Science (Cannaday Financial Services) Mattie Merriman

Geometry (Diamond C Trailers) Ana Martinez Zelaya

Government & Economics (Greater Hope Church of God in Christ) Juan Gallegos

Health Science Theory (Cypress Basin Hospice) Ivette Lopez

Instructional Practice in Education (EAG Auto Group) Diana Ramirez

Journalism Newspaper (Capture Memories) Raymond Sanchez

Journalism Yearbook (Phil & Jennifer Scudder) Abril Figueroa

Law Enforcement (Tumey Mortuary) Anna Rosa Lucio

Marketing (Mayben Realty) Landry McPeters

Math Models (East Texas Professional Credit Union) Carolyn Pena

Patient Care Tech (Ochoa/Coleman Orthodontics) Yvette Vargas

Physics (Amy Hinton Realty) Conley Johnson

Physics C (Stephenson Dirt Contracting) Julian Chancellor

Piano (Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant) Jonah Hernandez

Practicum in Health Science Technology I (MP Dental Assistant School) Lindsey Francisco

Practicum in Health Science Technology II (The Pediatric Clinic & NETX Pediatrics) Rosario Lopez

Pre-Calculus (Pilgrim Bank) Adriel Bagsic

Scientific Research & Design (Castillo Realty) Drew Cross

Spanish I (Jorge's) Alexa Moras

Spanish II (Piney Woods Family Dentistry) Logan Latiolais

Spanish III (Etex Septic and Supply) Wendy Valdez

Spanish IV (MP Rentals) Esmeralda Perez

Spanish Language and Culture (Tacos By Queen) Emily Garcia

Spanish Literature (KRB Investments) Sandy Farias

Sports Medicine (Thurman's Pro-Med Pharmacy) Rebecca Torres

Statistics (Guaranty Bank) Araceli Salazar

Theatre (Hampton Inn and Suites) Peyton Robinson

US History (Tom & Tucker Brown Family) Rebecca Dunn

World Geography (Patrick Redfearn Realty) Emy Chappell

World History (Lions Club of Mount Pleasant) Walter Terrell

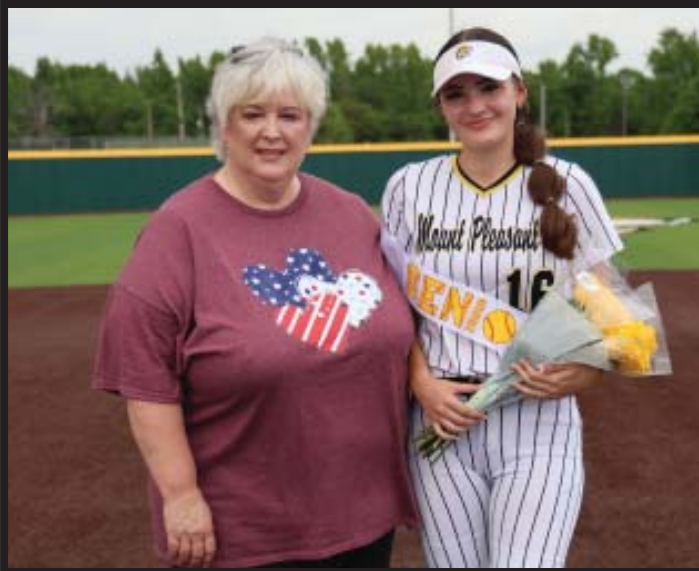
Softball Senior Night



Adie Rosewell



Kamryn Mines



Avery Jones



Azlyn Fluellen



Rylea Knieriem



Rebecca Torres

Baseball Senior Night



Nate Copado



Jacob Holstein



Colby Porter



Kortland Stovall



Bennett Wall



Coach Stewart with Seniors

MPHS Health Science students honored at pinning ceremony

Mount Pleasant High School held its fourth annual pinning ceremony for Health Science program students who have completed certifications in electrocardiogram (EKG), Phlebotomy Technician, Patient Care Technician Assistant, and Clinical Medical Assistant.

The ceremony was conducted in the MPHS auditorium on Wednesday, May 6. MPHS senior, Alyse Cervantes, offered the opening prayer and senior, Alessandro Greco, served as the emcee for the evening.

Health Science teacher Sarah Carrell pinned those who have tested and are credentialed Certified EKG Technicians. EKG Technicians work with patients to monitor and interpret their cardiac health using EKG tests that measure the electrical activity in the patient's heart.

Receiving pins for certification and/or program completion were Janelly Aguilar, Lucero Arroyo Orellana, Erick Bernardi, Emma Berry, Valerie Bradshaw, Kaylin Brannon, Jocelyn Camarillo, Kaylie Castillo, Kelly Castillo, Natalie Chaves, Sebastian Contreras Jr, Khloe Cooper, Logan Curley, Yannet Diego, Jacob Equihua, Seth Escobar, Lia Esguerra, Ashley Espinoza Coronado, Maritza Estrada, Emilia Ethridge, Lindsey Francisco, Elias Garcia Oliva, Irlanda Gasca, Violeta Gomez, Ana Gonzalez, Angie Guzman, Diego Hernandez,



Certified EKG Technicians and Certificate of Completion recipients with instructor Sarah Carrell.



Certified Phlebotomy Techs, Certified Patient Care Tech Assistants, Certificate of Completion recipients, and instructor Kristi Houchin

Vasti Hernandez, Alexis Herrera, Kenlee Jaggars, Jose Jimenez Jr, Caydon Johnson, Cielo Lopez Almazan, Angela Lopez, Emily Lopez, Jenaliz Lopez, Genesis Lozano, Alexander Manrique, Veronica Jaisvet Mannrique, Veronica Heidi Martinez, Axel Mata Macias, Makayla Mather, Allison Mendoza, Daena Mendoza, Jocelyn Mendoza, Kace Moreno, Adriana

Munoz, Jared Munoz, Andy Ortiz-Valenzuela, Carolyn Pena, Lady Pimentel Cierra, Jacolby Pogue, Charity Prater, Gisel Ramirez, Cooper Rider, Nicole Salazar, Stephanie Salddana Leyva, Margarita Salinas, Karyme Sanchez, Joshua Sanchez, Alfredo Santillan, Denise Serrano, Francisco Serrano Ontiveros, Briana Solis-Atrizco, Mayci Stok-

See Ceremony, Pg. 23

Ceremony from Page 22

er, Maximus Tutone, Carla Villegas, Adira Wario, Amiyah Willis, Maggie Wilson, and Alba Zeqaj.

Health Science teacher, Kristi Houchin, awarded completion cords and pinned the Certified Phlebotomy Techs and the Certified Patient Care Tech Assistants.

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 Karen Alvarez, Ceslie Beltran, Alyse Cervantes, Jahayra Chavez, Jazlynn Chism, Valerie Colocho, Nathan Copado, Liliana Cruz, Humberto Damian, Nef-tali Delgado, Sara Evan, Starlie Fernandez, Maria Garcia, Arlyn Gonzales, Esther Gonzalez, Riley Guereca, Aylin Hernandez, Summer Jimenez, Samaya McCarty, Yolanda Nicolas-Abrego, Rosali Nino, Maribel Ramirez, Zadquiel Ramirez, Candy Sanchez, Chloe Smith, Wendy Valdez, Yvette Vargas, Dakota Voge, Jaeda Walker, Leticia Willis, and Geraldine Zermeno.

Health Science teacher Lucero Rivas awarded completion cords and



Certified Clinical Medical Assistants and instructor Lucero Rivas

pinned the Certified Clinical Medical Assistants. A Certified 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 Brissia Alvarez, Preston Arnold, Valerie Cassio, Violet Castaneda, Aaliyah Delarosa, Sandy Farias, Jaqueline Fernandez, Ava True Fite, Azlyn Fluellen, Emily Garcia, Audrey Garrett, Jamie Garrett, Atalee Gonzalez, Jai'lyn Gutierrez, Joseline Hernandez, Marisol Hipolito, Jordan Krumrie,

Ana Lara, Rossmeli Leyva, Rosario Lopez, Jennifer Luna, Jaydy Martinez, Ariel Medina, Alaya Organista, Aidan Perez, Ailin Quinonez, Laura Ramirez, Adeline Rosewell, Alondra Ruiz Lara, Ninel Ruiz, Rebecca Torres, and Jose' Vargas.

The 2025-2026 Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) officers received their graduation cords. Officers for this year were President Jaydy Martinez, Vice Presidents Jennifer Luna and Joseline Hernandez, Secretary Brissia Alvarez, Treasurer Marisol Hipolito, Parliamentarians Neftali Delgado and Wendy Valdez, Historians Alyse Cervantes and Jordan Krumrie, and HOSA Representatives Emily Garcia and Rosmeli Leyva.

In all, 95 MPHS 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.

Getting to know the Rodgers twins

By ALOANI LABOY
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Like many twins, seniors Karlee and Gunner Rodgers have interests that they share in common such as FFA.

But they each forged their own path in high school and have their own differences. They plan to go their separate ways when it comes to college. Karlee and Gunner took time out of their final month of high school to share their thoughts on being a twin, what their future holds and advice for underclassmen.

1. What are you currently or have been involved in during High School?

Karlee - Future Farmers of America (FFA), National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Chick-fil-A Leader Academy, basketball team and Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Gunner - FFA, 4H, STUCO and football

2. Which one of you would be considered the favorite twin and why?

Karlee - "Gunner will definitely say it's him, but depending on who you ask, it's definitely me. I'm a bit nicer than Gunner. So people typically like me best - plus Gunner is a lot louder than I am so it pushes people away most of the time."

Gunner - "Honestly my parents are pretty fair between my sister and I, it's actually my younger brother that is without a doubt the favorite. That kid can do just about whatever without punishment."

3. Are you considering college, trade school, or another path? Why did you choose that and what are your future plans for college and career?

Karlee - "I plan to attend Texas Tech University and major in Animal Science. When I graduate, I plan to attend veterinarian school to be a large animal veterinarian to help kids like me who showed animals and keep them healthy."

Gunner - "My plan is to attend Texas A&M University, and major in Ag leadership and development. My plan is to become an Ag Lobbyist and fight for the agricultural industry at the state and possibly the national level."

4. Do you ever feel like you need space from each other, or do you prefer being together all the time? Why?

Karlee - Gunner and I definitely need space from each other. Gunner is one of the only people that can get on my nerves. He sure knows how to push my buttons. I think it might be different if we were girl/girl twins,



Karlee and Gunner Rodgers

but being brother and sister, we definitely need our space.

Gunner - "Karlee and I need our space, but when we are apart for a while, we do talk a lot."

5. If you could give your twin advice for the future, what would it be?

Karlee - Save your money, don't always buy the super expensive stuff, make friends and not enemies.

Gunner - "To get out of her comfort zone and meet new people."

6. If you could describe your twin in 3 words, what would they be?

Karlee - Energetic, loud and bossy

Gunner - Thoughtful, caring, and over thinker.

7. What's your favorite high school memory so far?

Karlee -- The FFA trips

Gunner - "My favorite high school memory would have to be the ag trips we go on in FFA."

8. As a twin, do you have similar hobbies or passions?

Karlee - Yes and no. We are both involved in FFA, but Gunner is a lot more involved than I am. I played basketball while he was

See Rodgers, Pg. 25

Alvarez takes fourth place in newswriting at UIL State

Mount Pleasant High School senior, Brissia Alvarez, placed 4th in 5A News Writing at the UIL State Academic Meet on Monday, May 18, earning her second UIL State medal. Alvarez won silver in Ready Writing in 2024.

Remarkably, Alvarez had never competed in News Writing until the district meet in March, due to the event conflicting with Spelling. She spent just a few days preparing for the event with her adviser to learn the format, rules, and how to compose a story for the competition. Alvarez took third place at district in her first ever competition, advancing her to region. She then placed second in her second ever meet, advancing to state. And finally, she placed fourth overall in the entire state of Texas and was the top finisher among those from region 2 who competed in state news writing.

In News Writing, students are given a prompt and have 45 minutes to respond with a news story. The judging criteria includes a lead that consists of the most timely and newsworthy information, facts presented in descending order of importance, and use of direct and indirect quotes, among other writing, spelling, style and grammar considerations. This year's 5A state prompt concerned a newly installed school lockdown system, and competitors were tasked with writing a news story for a high school newspaper.

Alvarez graduated as the Valedictorian of the MPHS Class of 2026 and will attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in Biochemistry. She was coached by John Whitten.



Student Council selects officers for 2026-27 year

The 2026-2027 MPHS Student Council Officers from left are Special Projects Co-Chairman Dulce Gonzales, Treasurer Viridiana Dominguez, Vice President Isaac Hernandez, President Vasti Hernandez, Secretary Angeles DeLaCruz and Special Projects Chairman Makayla Mather.



Rodgers from Page 24

doing FFA. I'm also more involved in school activities than he is."

Gunner - "Karlee and I both enjoy FFA, fishing and hunting."

9. If you could change one thing about your high school experience, what would it be?

Karlee - "I don't know if I would actually change anything. I really enjoyed high school and all that I got to do."

Gunner - "I wish I would have transferred sooner"

10. What's a piece of advice would you give to an underclassman about high school, choosing classes or planning for college?

Karlee - "Do everything you can, don't be

boring and have fun. Take the hard classes, it's not that bad just make sure to study. Junior year is hard, but don't give up. Figure out where you want to go to school and apply early and start applying for any scholarship you can! Anything helps!"

Gunner - "Do something that will leave an impact, we have one chance in this Earth, don't waste it being dumb."

11. If you and your twin switched lives for a day, what's one thing you'd do that your twin would never expect?

Karlee - I would truly embrace how he lives and act like him. I think he would expect me to try to be like myself."

Gunner - "I'd go find her new/more friends and get her out there."

Getting to know the Farias twins

By **EDWIN VALERIO**
and **DIEGO FRANCISCO**
Tigertalk Staff Writers

Meet the Farias twins - Angel and Sandy. They are fraternal twins who were both band members with other similar interests in school.

When it comes to their future though, Sandy sees a medical career as her goal while Angel is leaning towards engineering.

One thing they agree on though is who is more likable.

The Farias twins made time to answer questions about themselves and what lies in store as they prepare to graduate and leave MPHS.

1. What are you currently or have been involved in during high school?

Sandy - I have been involved in band for four years, National Honor Society for two years, Chick-fil-A Leader Academy and Future Business Leaders of America for two.

Angel - UIL Math, NHS, NTHS, band, Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy, & powerlifting

2. Which one of you would be considered the favorite twin and why?

Sandy - "I personally think I would be considered the favorite twin due to my outgoing and sweet personality."

Angel - "Sandy, because she is a likable person."

3. Are you considering college, trade school, or another path? Why did you choose that and what are your plans for college or career?

Sandy - "I am going to Texas A&M University because I am pursuing a degree in nursing."

Angel - "I am considering college to major in mechanical engineering."

4. Do you ever feel like you need space from each other, or do you prefer being together all the time? Why?

Sandy - "I sometimes do feel like I need space from one another like any other sibling, due to the fact that we have different tastes and personalities."

Angel - "I prefer being together, that



Angel and Sandy Farias both made Top 10 Percent honor graduates.

way I don't feel alone."

5. If you could give your twin advice for the future, what would it be?

Sandy - "Never give up on your dreams your hard work and dedication will take you places."

Angel - "Always count on your money and save money."

6. If you could describe your twin in 3 words, what would they be?

Sandy - Serious, smart and hardworking.

Angel - Hardworking, smart and kind

7. What's your favorite memory in high school so far?

Sandy - "My favorite memory in high school so far is getting to qualify for state marching band and going to San Antonio."

Angel - "Going to state for band."

8. As a twin do you have similar hob-

See Farias, Pg. 27



The 2026-2027 Colorguard officers from left are Lieutenant Sarai Paloblanco, Lieutenant Anna Lucio, Co-Captain Karen Mata, Captain Karyme Sanchez, Co-Captain Gavin Hays, Lieutenant Nyla Dumlao and Lieutenant Hannah Carr.

Colorguard selects new officers

The Mount Pleasant High School Colorguard held tryouts for the 2026-2027 school year on Thursday, April 16 in the Colorguard facility at MPHS. The 26-27 line features 7 officers, 44 members, and 2 managers for a total of 53.

The new officers are Captain Karyme Sanchez, Co-Captains Karen Mata and Gavin Hays, and Lieutenants Hannah Carr, Nyla Dumlao, Anna Lucio, and Sarai Paloblanco.

Line members include Karissa Alcaraz, Manny Almeida, Abiela Balatzar, Joselyn Barbosa, Sydney Beard, Kiara Bishop, Jordan Boyd, Victoria Brown, Alexa Castaneda, Lia Contreras, Nicholai Crabtree, Alahandra Craddock, Jackie Damian, Nataly Diaz Patino, Ananyanzy Duron, Chrissyln

Elliott, Moriah Eskew, Izzy Furnish, Caro Garcia, Jackie Garcia, Leanna Garrett, Esme Guerrero, Vicky Guterrez, Hannah Hughes, Naomi Kimbro, Kali Landers, Jennifer Meeks, Grecia Molina, Allison Moreno, Flower Moreno, Kenly Moreno, Bernie Murrillo, Alheli Ramirez, Catta Rodriguez, Ella Rosewell, Alondra Tapia, Abby Tolentino, Kristan Turner, Jamileth Valerio, Melanie Valle, Day Ventura, Jaretzy Villeda, Kaitlenn Washington, and Zoe Zuniga. Managers are Gabby McGill and Michelle Pineda.

The Colorguard will begin preparations for the 2026 marching show with choreography camp and two spin clinics in the summer.

The MPHS Colorguard is under the direction of Marty Newman.

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bies or passions?

Sandy - "Because were fraternal I feel like we don't share the same hobbies or passions."

Angel - "We do not have any similar hobbies."

9. If you could change one thing about your high school experience, what would it be?

Sandy - "I would like to be more outgoing and make more friends."

Angel - To do cross country.

10. What piece of advice of advice

you give to underclassmen about high school, choosing classes or planning for college?

Sandy - "Don't be afraid to pursue the career of your choice."

Angel - "Do not procrastinate, always plan ahead."

11. If you and your twin switched lives for a day, what's one thing you do that your twin would never expect?

Sandy - "I would buy as many things with his money."

Seniors entering military honored

During the Academic Blanket awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 12, Mount Pleasant High School honored four seniors who have committed to entering the armed forces after graduation.

Each senior was introduced by Assistant Principal Josh Blackstone and presented a red, white and blue cord to wear at graduation by Sergeant Dydasco, U.S. Marine Recruiter.

Three seniors, including Jacob Holstein, Kevin Urbina, and Abraham Tolentino, will be joining the United States Marines.

And Alexandra Velez will be joining the United States Army.



MPHS seniors earning military cords for graduation (L to R) Sergeant Dydasco, Kevin Urbina, Alexandra Velez, Abraham Tolentino and Jacob Holstein.



Pictured above are the 2026-2027 Tiger Doll Officers and Sergeants. Front row from left are Junior Lieutenant Leslie Benavides, 1st Lieutenant Pilar Gonzalez, Captain Kenlee Jagers and Junior Lieutenant Marley Broach. Back row from left are Sergeant Preslee Craig, Head Sergeant Alexis Mata and Sergeant Ella Anderson. Not pictured is Sergeant Malori Chism.

Tiger Dolls select new Officers & Sergeants

The MPHS Tiger Dolls held tryouts for Officer and Sergeant positions on Friday, May 1 in the Tiger Doll room at Mount Pleasant High School.

The Tiger Doll Officers for the 2026-2027 school year are Captain Kenlee Jagers, 1st Lieutenant Pilar Gonzalez, Junior Lieutenant Leslie Benavides, and Junior Lieutenant Marley Broach. New Sergeants include Alexis Mata (Head Sergeant), Ella Anderson, Malori Chism, and Preslee Craig.

The Tiger Dolls are under the direction of Jatón Broach.

Fashion Design students hold showcase displaying their work

Fashion Design students showcased their work on Friday, May 1 in the second annual MPHS Fashion Show, highlighting the creativity, craftsmanship, and innovation of its students.

The main open area in the MPHS academic building, known as “Tiger Alley”, was transformed into a runway, ready for the models to reveal the designers’ creations.

Participants from Fashion Design II and III unveiled original collections that reflected the diverse skills developed throughout the program. In addition to constructing their garments, students took on the full scope of the design process—recruiting models, styling each look, and developing mood boards to communicate the vision behind their collections.

Fashion Design II students each produced one garment, while Fashion Design III students completed three-piece collections, demonstrating advanced techniques and cohesive design concepts. Student volunteers from MPHS served as models for these collections.

Fashion Design 2 participants included Ivan Bernardino, Leslie Cassio, Valerie Cruz, Valeria Flores, Bryan Garcia, Genesis Garcia, Ale Hernandez, Angela Lopez, Helen Munoz, Joselyn Ramirez, Brenda Ramirez, Marely Rotuno, Margarita Saucedo, Melani Soriano, and Gabby Zachry. Fashion Design 3 participants included Yvette Cervantes, Colt Covey, Anny Delgadillo, Emily Ortiz, Dayanara Pulquero, Bella



Aaliyah Delarosa models a denim set designed by Gabby Zachry.



Yolie Rodriguez wears a strapless dress designed by Leslie Cassio.



Joselyn Ramirez models a pink dress she designed.



Model and designer Bryan Garcia shows off his outfit.

Reyes, and Alexandra Velez. MPHS students volunteering to model were Ivan Bernardino, Skyla Bui, Aliana Cervantes, Genesis Cordova, Aaliyah Delarosa, Ailyn Delarosa, Bruno DeLeon, Seth Escobar, Angel Flores, Valeria Flores, Christopher Garcia, Genesis Garcia, Maria Garcia, Ale Hernandez, Evelyn Hernandez, Emileigh Hobbs, Mia Jaime, AJ Jeff, Karen Mata, Ruby Mata, Helen Munoz, Yolanda Nicolas, Brenda Ramirez,

Joselyn Ramirez, Bella Reyes, Yolie Rodriguez, Lesly Rojas, Marely Rotuno, Cassandra Saavedra, Margarita Salinas, Cristal Sanchez, Alondra Santos, Keylee Tyler, and Gabby Zachry. The Fashion Design Program, led by instructor Margaret Bradley, has experienced significant growth since its revival nearly eight years ago, continuing to provide students with hands-on experience and a platform to showcase their talents.

Tiger Dolls Spring Show

