

Tigertalk

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**Basketball
begins**



**Homecoming
Week**



**Homecoming Royalty
King Samuel Carillo
and Queen Niurka Valente**

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Both the boys and girls soccer teams are preparing for a new season. The boys had a scrimmage with Kilgore last Thursday. Pedro Zuniga controls the ball in the scrimmage against a Kilgore defender. Both teams have their first official games in January.

Tigertalk

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Carillo, Valente crowned homecoming king, queen

By FAITH HAMPTON
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Seniors selected Samuel Carillo and Niurka Valente as this year's Homecoming King and Queen.

Valente, daughter of Ana Espinoza and Juan Valente, is a senior this year at MPHS. Her hobbies include running, shopping and hanging out with her family. She was escorted by her father.

Her mom is her role model and she plans on going to Texas A&M to earn a Bachelors in Business in the future. Her favorite vacation was in Cancun, and she wants to one day visit Ireland. Her favorite food is pasta and her favorite place to eat is Olive Garden. Her favorite subject is English because it's the subject she understands best.

Lisette Cruz, daughter of Maria Isabel Cruz and Jose Victor Cruz was escorted by her mother, who is a 2005 graduate from MPHS. Throughout high school, she has played varsity soccer all four years.

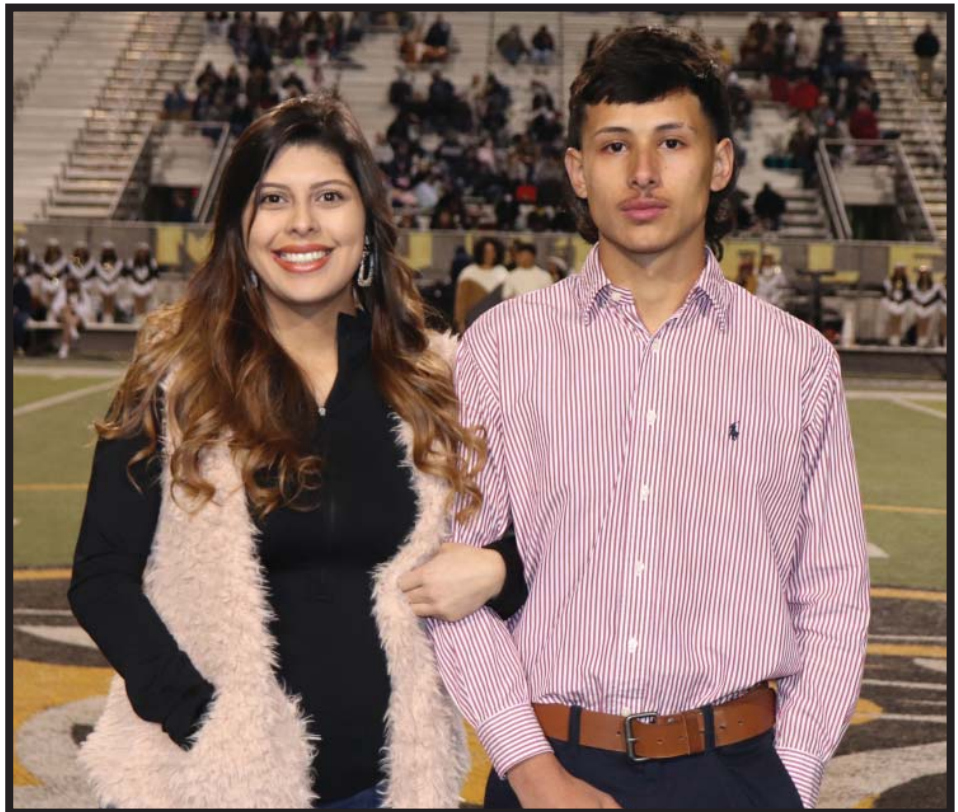
In her junior year, she received 1st team all-district in soccer. She has also participated in HOSA. Her hobbies include playing soccer, shopping and spending time with family.

Her role model is her mother and she wants to one day travel to Brazil. Cruz plans to attend and play soccer for NTCC, later transferring to a university and continuing her education and athletic career there to earn her bachelor's degree in Occupational Health and Safety.

See Homecoming, Pg. 4



Niurka Valente received homecoming queen honors.



Sammy Carillo was named homecoming king.

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Her favorite food is enchiladas and favorite place to eat is Pluckers. Her favorite subject is Algebra because it challenges her. Cruz would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support.

Litzy Patino, daughter of Claudia and Luis Patino, was escorted by her father. Throughout high school she has been involved in both Tiger Dolls and Yearbook.

Her hobbies include shopping and hanging out with friends and family. Her role model is her mom and she wants to visit Italy. After high school Patino plans to go to college and earn her bachelor's degree in social work.

Her favorite food is mole and her favorite place to eat is Gloria's. Her favorite subject is English because she finds it easy to understand.

Alejandra Ramirez, daughter of Marcela Ramirez and Alex Ramirez was escorted by her father. Throughout high school, she has earned the Algebra II Academic Blanket and been a member in several organizations as well as held positions such as National Technical Honor Society and National Honor Society, FBLA and Colorguard Manager. She has also been on the A Honor Roll.

Her hobbies include playing sports, work-

See Homecoming, Pg. 5



Lessete Cruz



Litzy Patino



Alejandra Ramirez

Homecoming from Page 4

ing and hanging out with friends and family. Her role models are her parents and she plans to attend Texas A&M University at College Station majoring in Medical Science and continuing to medical school. She wants to visit Rome and Greece one day.

Her favorite food is tacos and favorite place to eat is her mom's kitchen. Her favorite subject is math because she enjoys a challenge and finds math easier to understand.

Samuel Carillo, son of Rosa Mata, was escorted by Yulisa Torres. His hobbies include playing soccer and plans to become a certified welder in the future. Carillo wants to visit the Bahamas. His favorite food is pizza and favorite place to eat is In-N-Out. His favorite subject is math because he is good with numbers.

Gaven Fife, son of Brandy Fife, was escorted by his mother, who is a 1999 graduate.

While in high school, Fife has received an Academic Blanket for Fashion Design, was named Senior Class Favorite for his senior year and is involved in multiple organizations such as yearbook, NHS and FBLA.

His hobbies include fashion, art and photography. After graduating, Fife plans to attend UT Austin and later go to an art school

See Homecoming, Pg. 6



Gaven Fife



Didier Serrano



Devin Williams

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Roque, Estrada selected band royalty

Maiko Estrada and Patricia Roque were selected Band Beau and Sweetheart by members of the band and Colorguard. They were honored at the final home game of the season.

Maiko is the son of Jose and Maria Estrada. He was named Rotary Student of the Month in September and is also a certified electrocardiogram technician.

His hobbies include running, playing music, dancing, hanging out with friends and playing soccer.

He said it was honor to be recognized by his classmates.

“Being recognized as Band Beau this year shows that I have been a positive influence to others,” Estrada said. “Truly, that’s who I am. I am not like very musically talented, nor drum major, all I know is that I’m just always spreading positive vibes.”

His plans after high school are to attend Stephen F. Austin University and major in



See Band, Pg. 20

Roque and Estrada display their new crowns and sashes.

Homecoming from Page 5

in New York City. He hopes to one day visit Paris, France and his favorite food is the bacon and ranch quesadillas from his favorite place to eat, Chili’s.

His favorite class is year-book because the environment is very calm and comfortable.

Didier Serrano, son of Aurea Serrano and Damian Serrano is a senior this year. He was escorted by his mother, Aurea Serrano. Throughout high school, he has been in cross country, long distance track and field and was involved in band for his freshmen and sophomore years. His hobbies include hanging

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out with friends, working out and trying new sushi rolls.

His role model is his father. After high school, Serrano plans to major in Nursing and earn a master’s degree from UT-Austin and going on to become a physician’s assistant. Serrano wants to visit Santorini, Greece. His favorite food is sushi and favorite place to eat is Cracker Barrel.

His favorite class is History because he likes learning the history of the things around us and how it influences us as a people.

Devin Williams, son of 2002 graduate Shayla Norman, was escorted by his sister

Anna Norman. Throughout high school, he has played varsity basketball for three years. His hobbies include listening to music, hanging out with friends, and playing games. His role model is Nipsey Hussel.

His future plans are to go to college, earn a business degree then become an entrepreneur and open his own business. Williams wants to visit Bora Bora.

His favorite food is spaghetti and favorite place to eat is In-N-Out. His favorite subject is English taught by Mrs. Bell because he likes learning new words and expanding his vocabulary.

Football sweethearts crowned at game

The high school football teams recently chose sweethearts for the varsity, junior varsity and freshmen teams.

Karen Trejo was named varsity sweetheart. The daughter of Vicente Trejo and Evelyn Trejo, Karen has been a member of Colorguard, National Honor Society, Student Council and HOSA throughout high school. She is certified in both CPR and CET.

Trejo's hobbies include hanging out with her best friend, learning a new word each day and napping. Her role model is her mother.

Her plans after high school are to attend a four-year university and pursue her dream of becoming a pediatric nurse practitioner and to travel the world. She wants to visit South Korea and Tokyo.

Her favorite foods are tamales and spaghetti and her favorite place to eat is her grandmother's house. Her favorite class is Medical Assisting because she said "it's interesting to learn about diseases and how our body fights them off."

Elizabeth Lockett, the daughter of Sedrick and Shanta Lockett, is a junior and was named junior varsity sweetheart.

She has been a member of the varsity cheerleaders, FBLA Treasurer, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society and class vice president her sophomore year.

Her role model is her mother because she has survived cancer twice. Future plans include to graduate Top 10 percent of my class and to become a pediatric physician assistant.

Her favorite place to visit is California and she wants to travel to Hawaii. Her favorite food is steak and shrimp and her favorite place to eat is Raising Cane's. Her favorite class is English because she loves to read and it increases her vocabulary and soothes her soul. Her motto is "never give up" based on Philippians 4:13.



Karen Trejo with her father.

Conlee Zachry was named the freshman football sweetheart. She is the daughter of Chet and Shonda Zachry.

She plays both for the basketball and softball teams in high school and both of those sports are her hobbies. Her role model is her sister Carson.

Conlee's plans after high school are to attend the University of Arkansas and play NCAA Division I softball. Her favorite place to travel is the mountains in Colorado.

Her favorite subject is Algebra because she loves finding solutions and solving problems. Her favorite food is sushi and her favorite place to eat is Round Eye Sushi Guy.



Lockett was crowned JV Football Sweetheart.



Zachry is shown with her father.

HOME COMING WEEK

Students got in the spirit for Homecoming Week as they dressed up each day in anticipation for the big game.

While the actual game against Hallsville was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns, the Tigers still showed their Homecoming spirit throughout the week leading up to the game.

The different dress-up days this year were Disney Day, Jersey Day, Class Colors Day, College and Career Day and Western Day.



HOME COMING WEEK





Sharp and Burrows are both active members of various school organizations.

High school staff select Sharp, Burrows as All School Boy, Girl

By ANGEL ACUNA
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Ryan Sharp and Lily Burrows were selected by the MPHS staff for All School Boy and Girl this year.

Lily is the daughter of Brad and Heidi Burrows. She is a member of Tiger Dolls, NHS, NTHS, and HOSA. She also served as the Tiger Doll Head Sergeant, Jr. Lieutenant and is currently the captain.

She spends a good deal of her time with the Tiger Dolls and dancing at Raevin Dance Factory.

After she graduates high school, she is planning to attend Texas A&M University to major in Business.

Lily's role model is her older sister, Lucy.

Burrow's favorite food is pasta and her favor-

ite class/subject is Tiger Dolls because it's her second home.

Lily said she was honored to have been named the award recipient.

"Being named All School Girl has been an unexpected and humbling experience for me. I feel truly honored that my teachers thought enough of me to nominate me for this award," Lily said. "Each of my teachers here at MPHS has left a lasting impression on my life."

Ryan is the son of Robin and Janet Sharp.

During his high school years, he has received many achievements like: AP Scholar, All-State team swim, Academic All-State team swim, National Academic All-American, Heisman Scholarship

school winner and state qualifier in swim and Congressional Debate.

Other activities he does outside of school is skating, sleeping, video games, fishing, driving, and of course swimming.

After he graduates high school, he is planning to commit to a Division 1 College in swimming or attend a prestigious university to major in Finance.

Ryan's role models are his peers because they inspire him to do better.

Ryan was ask about how he felt being recognized by the teachers.

He said, "it was an honor to be the teachers choice. To see that my superiors recognized the effort I put into school made the process feel worth is."

Seniors pick Pinckard, Valente for Mr. and Miss MPHS honor

By FAITH HAMPTON
Tigertalk Staff Writer

High school seniors recently chose Reid Pinckard and Mirka Valente as Mr. and Miss MPHS in balloting done for senior superlatives.

Mirka is the daughter of Ana Espinoza and Juan Valente. Throughout high school, she participated in dance all four years and played soccer her junior year. She enjoys shopping as well as hanging out with her friends.

When asked how it felt to be recognized, Valente responded "I felt very honored to be chosen as Miss MPHS and I appreciate everyone who voted for me."

After high school she plans to attend NTCC to complete her basics, then continue to attend Texas A&M University of Texarkana and major in Business. Her role model is her mother and favorite food is Whataburger.

Her favorite class is Algebra because she loves working with numbers.

Reid is the son of Richie and Amanda Pinkard and has been active in many organizations.

In high school, Reid has participated in UIL Lit Crit, Current Events, Speech and Debate, NHS, and varsity football. In these activities he has been awarded AP US History blanket, named two-time national speech and debate tournament qualifier, LD co-district champion, Extemporaneous Speaking Regional finalist, and Tournament of Champions qualifier.

Pinkard enjoys hanging out with friend, watching Grey's Anatomy and ob-



Valente and Pinckard

sessing over college.

Pinckard said he was surprised upon receiving the honor.

"Honestly, it was a surprise considering I am not one that ever won class president or class favorite. I also don't go out of my way to get everyone to know who I am. It feels amazing to see how my peers feel about me and my impact on the school," he said.

After high school, he plans to attend the University of Arkansas and double major in pre-law and political sci-

ence in hopes of being a human rights lawyer. His role model is his dad because he exhibits what selflessness and serving is supposed to look like.

His favorite food is the 3 for \$10 with chips and salsa and quesadillas at Chili's. His favorite class is US History because "Ms. Blalock is a hoot."

He would like to thank his parents for always believing in him, and Isabella and Anna for consistently listening and helping when needed.

Tigers hoping for long playoff run

By MIGUEL ARELLANO
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Basketball season is here and the boys team is ready than ever. Coming off a regional tournament berth, the Tigers are ranked #14 in the latest Texas Association Basketball Coaches poll.

Even though the Tigers lost a couple of key seniors, they have much of their core team returning.

“Anytime you graduate players and add new players, there is chemistry that has to re-established,” assistant coach Drew Barkley said. “We should still be solid in this area with nine returners but it’s always something you have to manage.”

Building new bonds with people is a part of life and is needed on sports teams as well.

Barkley said one of the keys for this team is being better on the defensive end.

“(We need) complete focus on the defensive end. We can always find way to score but getting stops is key to what we do,” Barkley said. “We demand that our players constantly communicate on defense and do whatever it takes to make the other team uncomfortable.”

Senior Brock Cooper said the team needs “to have energy throughout the game” in order to come out with a win each game.

Only a few players make the varsity team which makes us wonder what makes a great basketball player.

Coach Barkley said “commitment and sacrifice. A great player has to put in the work and be willing to make his teammates around him better. Skill and athletic ability are important but the best players do the little things that help their team win.”

While Cooper said that the difference is “playing hard on both ends of the court and picking up your teammates even when things aren’t going good.”

So far things are going great for the Tigers.



Zay Okoh goes up for a slam dunk.



Brock Cooper drives by a defender.



Assistant Drew Barkley and Head Coach Joey Chism

Lady Tigers seek return to playoffs

The Lady Tigers basketball team is off to a strong start as they hope to make another long playoff run.

According to senior Aunesti Brannon, the team has high expectations as they enter a new season.

“We plan on becoming district champions this season, and yes, we do anticipate going to the playoffs, as well as going further than we did last year,” Brannon said.

The Lady Tigers did lose a few key players, but they also have a lot of returning and some new ones to help them hopefully build off last year’s success.

“Everyone returned back to the team except for a couple of seniors, but with them leaving we gained four new members to the team,” Brannon said.

The Lady Tigers opened district play this past Friday night with a game at Sulphur Springs. They will host Hallsville on Tuesday, Dec. 15 and visit Longview on Friday, Dec. 18 as they start the first part of their district schedule.



Paris Beard is one of the top scorers.



Aunesti Brannon drives by an L-E player.



Autumn Jackson is one of the key returnees.

Greco, Sharp named Heisman winners

Seniors Isabella Greco and Ryan Sharp have been chosen as the school winners for the 2020 Heisman High School Scholarship program.

The Heisman High School Scholarship continues a 26-year tradition of honoring high school seniors who accomplish tremendous feats in the classroom, on the field, and most importantly, within their communities. The scholarship recognizes and rewards both male and female high school athletes who are community-minded and driven to use their exceptional talents for the benefit of all.

Greco, the daughter of Dr. Anthony and Ana Greco, is a 4-year member of the Varsity Swim Team and has served as girls' captain during her junior and senior years.

She has been awarded Academic All-State Swimmer and a Regional finalist for 9th-11th grades. She has been a member of the TISCA All-Region team for three years.

In addition to her outstanding performance on the swim team, she has been a member of the Varsity Debate Team for four years, serving as secretary as a junior and co-captain as a senior. She has been recognized as an Academic All-American Debater, a national qualifier in World Schools Debate and a regional qualifier in Congressional Debate.

Isabella is secretary of the National Honor Society and Reporter of FBLA. While competing in FBLA events, she was Area Champion, State Bronze Medalist, and a National Qualifier in Broadcast Journalism. She is also a member of MPHS Student Council, the Varsity Girls



Greco, Sharp were named Heisman High School recipients.

Golf team, UIL Current Events team, and Interact.

Isabella has volunteered in various capacities to serve her community. She has coached younger students in the MPCC SPLASH Summer Swim team, organized canned food drives, participated in Adopt a Highway, and helped with Titus County Cares.

Sharp, the son of Robin and Janet Sharp, is a member of the MPHS Varsity Swim Team. He has placed in the district and regional meets for both the butterfly and the backstroke for each of the last three years.

He is a member of the MPHS Speech and Debate team, National Honor Society, FBLA, and Student Council. He participated in UIL Current Event competitions and was a member of the 2nd place district team. In the Broadcast Journalism competition for FBLA, he

placed 1st in district and 3rd in state, qualifying for FBLA Nationals. He has also been recognized as a Scholastic All American and an AP Scholar.

As a member of the Varsity Speech and Debate team, Ryan has won numerous awards. He has placed in district in both Speech and Debate and qualified for Nationals.

He was selected to compete in World Schools Debate at Nationals, was a National Individual Events Tournament of Champions Qualifier, and a Texas Forensics Association State qualifier.

Sharp spends time volunteering with the Adopt-A-Highway program, the Salvation Army, and Titus County Cares.

He assists with the Pilot Club League of Dreams program as well as participates with his youth group at St. Michael Catholic Church.

Pinckard selected Academic All-State

Senior Reid Pinckard was recently announced as a member of the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State team (2nd team).

To be nominated for Academic All-State, a student must be an athlete, student trainer, or manager in good standing with the team, a senior of good moral character, and have an overall grade point average of 92 or above. Nominated student athletes are then evaluated on their GPA, class rank, and ACT and/or SAT scores.

Pinckard has played high school football for four years and is a Varsity Team Captain. He has also earned numerous awards with Mount Pleasant Speech and Debate including qualifying for Regionals in Lincoln-Douglas debate and Extemporaneous Speaking. He has also participated in UIL Academics for 4 years and is the President of the National Honor Society. After graduation he plans to double major in Political Science and Pre-Law with the goal of becoming a Human Rights lawyer. He is the son of Ritchie and Amanda Pinckard.



Pinckard

Fishing team wraps up their fall season



Welborn and Phillips show off the fish they caught.

The high school fishing team competed in their final event of the fall season in the Texas High School Bass Association tournament on Lake Tyler recently.

The team of seniors Zane Phillips and Tyler Welborn placed 30th out of 95 teams with 2 fish weighing 3.86 lbs. Seniors Mya Clark and MaKayla Houchin, seniors Ethan Cota and Bryce Bartlett, and freshmen Cody Slone and Clayton Miller also competed but were unable to reel anything in.

The team will resume their season on Feb. 27 at Lake Bob Sandlin.

Senior Spotlight on Taryn Thurman

By ODALYS ADAME
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Every year there are students who show a great dedication and perseverance throughout high school. One of these esteemed students happens to be Taryn Thurman who is regarded by her peers as an adaptable and headstrong individual.

Thurman currently serves as the Captain of the Color guard in which she has been in for four years. She has also been a member of the debate team for four years where she has served as Co-Captain of Policy debate. In her years in debate, she has accumulated many awards that distinguish her amongst her peers. This year she is Vice President of National Honor Society as well as a member of FBLA.

Among the teachers that have encouraged her and positively influenced her are Ms. Blalock, her former debate coach Cody Morris, and Mr. Crouch.

“Each has taught me so much and not just about school. Their support throughout my years in high school is so appreciated. I am of the belief that each teacher I’ve had has been a blessing,” Thurman states.

She notes that one of her favorite parts of her senior year so far have been the football games and performing. Unfortunately, color guard could attend to as many games as the usually do. However, Thurman comments that her absolute favorite part has been Thanksgiving break.

Her motivation to stay diligent throughout these difficult times has been her knowledge



Thurman has plans to attend Texas A&M

that she is close to the finish line. After graduating Thurman plans to attend Texas A&M University in College station and major in Business. With the second semester being almost here, graduation does not seem far off and is almost right around the corner for the Class of 2021.



Thurman is captain of the Colorguard.



Front row from left are Ryan Sharp, Isabella Greco and Connelly Cowan. Second row from left are Merlin Cardona and Anthony Orellana. In back row is Coach Enrique Martinez.

Three debaters advance to state

The high school Speech and Debate competed in the Regional Congressional Debate tournament at the Region VIII Education Service Center on Nov. 12.

Competing against other 5A schools in our region, MPHS had a great showing taking 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 7th places in the competition. It was the second year in a row that MPHS would secure all three state advancing places.

Senior Isabella Greco was the Regional Champion with junior Connelly Cowan placing 2nd and senior Ryan Sharp placing 3rd. Greco, Cowan, and Sharp will all advance to the state meet in January. It will be the first state trip for Greco, the second for Cowan and the third for Sharp. In 2020, Cowan was a UIL State medalist in Congressional Debate.

Sophomore Anthony Orellana earned 5th place making him an alternate to state with sophomore Merlin Cardona 7th.

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.

Greco, Cowan and Sharp will compete at the State Congressional Debate tournament in Austin, Jan. 5-7.

Seniors chosen for superlative honors

By KIMBERLEY GALVAN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Congratulations to the following senior students elected for superlative honors by their classmates. The students are listed below for each category they were selected.

Most Athletic --- Boys: Yhari Hudson, Caleb Jones and Zay Okoh; Girls: Cathy Banda, Ashlyn Brooks and Buendy Fraire

Most Talented --- Boys: Jordi Bello, Victor Diaz and Jerrius Vickers; Girls: Madyson Arzate, Lily Burrows and Mya Clark.

Most Likely to Succeed --- Boys: Reid Pinckard, Nicholas Segovia and Ryan Sharp; Girls: Isabella Greco, Patricia Roque and Taryn Thurman

Best Style --- Boys: Gaven Fife, Isaac Robles and Asareel Villavicencio; Girls: Lessete Cruz, Jennifer Soto and Valerie Moreno

Drama King and Queen --- Boys: Miguel Guerrero, Baker Peterson and Reid Pinckard; Girls: Lexy Caddell, Aridahy Gonzalez and Reese Loving.

Biggest Heartthrobs --- Boys: Logan Dunn, Zane Phillips and Logan Saldivar; Girls: Ashley Bernardi, Litzy Patino and

Megan Adams

Social Media Star --- Boys: Juan Canada, Brock Cooper and Devin Williams; Girls: Leslie Espinoza, Mayra Martinez and Carson Zachry

Most Changed Since Freshman Year --- Boys: Joel Campos, Octavio Garcia and Brock Shavers; Girls: Faith Logan, Maira Rocha, Joselynn Smith.

Most Likely to Brighten Day --- Boys: Tairrelle Chong, Manuel Gonzalez and Tyler Welborn; Girls: Madison Adams, Chazlea Morris and Perla Pina

Best Smile --- Boys: Bryce Bartlett, Ethan Cota and Juan Torres; Girls: Karla Cabrera, Madeline Organista and Jaycee Woods

Class Clown --- Boys: Samuel Carrillo, Lorenzo Gonzalez and Terrick Johnson; Girls: Guadalupe Diaz, Zaushalynn Lee and Mariabel Rodarte.

Best Friends --- Boys: Bryce Bartlett and Brock Cooper; Zay Brown and Zay Okoh and Logan Dunn and Baker Peterson; Girls: Madison Adams and Megan Adams, Jalissa Alvarez and Faith Hampton and Ashlynn Brooks and Ke'Mya Davis.

FFA students win district competition

The Mount Pleasant chapter of FFA competed at the Paris District Leadership Development Event (LDE) held at Northeast Texas Community College.

The Ag Skills team of senior MaKayla Houchin, juniors Sam Brown and Sara Phillips and sophomore Ethan Easley took 1st place and advanced to the next round.

In Ag Skills, a team of 3-5 members performs an actual demonstration of an agricultural skill using effective public speaking and communication methods.

The MPHS team demonstrated how to secure a tractor to a trailer for safe transportation. The students described how weight distribution and placement of the tractor play roles in safety. The students also explained the necessary tools used to complete the job.



From left are Houchin, Easley, Phillips and Brown.

“Having a team advance to the area is huge accomplishment due to the strong competition in our area,” said Blake Rice, MPHS Ag Science Coordinator. “We are extreme-

ly proud of our team and the work they put forth.”

The area competition was held in Marshall at Texas State Technical College in late November.

Zachry, Dunn sign letters of intent



Carson Zachry signed a letter of intent to continue her softball career at Northwestern State University in Louisiana. Zachry play in the infield and at pitcher for the Lady Tigers softball team over the past four years. Zachry is pictured with members of her immediate and extended family



Logan Dunn signed a letter of intent to continue playing baseball at Northeast Texas Community College. Dunn has played shortstop and pitcher for the Tigers. Dunn is shown with family and grandparents.

Senior completes NASA program

Senior Sherman Butler-Losey has completed NASA's High School Aerospace Scholars (HAS) program.

HAS is an authentic learning experience for Texas high school juniors to engage with NASA's mission to become the next generation of explorers.

Students are able to learn about different STEM related fields of study they might want to pursue in college. Following a series of online lessons, the highest achieving students were to be invited to an all-expenses-paid, week-long visit to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston during the summer.

Due to the pandemic, that portion of the program was moved to a virtual format. Butler-Losey reported that he scored 96% on the first section of the program, individual work over a span of four months, and 102% on the second section, a virtual experience completed in teams. The onsite portion including planning a mission to Mars. Butler-Losey's specific job was Spacecraft



Losey plans to major in Aerospace Engineering.

Propulsion Design.

Upon graduation, Butler-Losey plans to major in

Aerospace Engineering. He is the son of John and Janet Losey.

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biochemistry and then pursue a career in the medical field.

His role model is his father. His favorite food is anything his mom cooks and his role model is his father. His favorite subject is math because it just comes to easy to him.

Patricia is the daughter of Anselmo Roque and Fidelina Martinez.

She has has numerous honors such as Colorguard Squad Leader, NHS Historian, NTHS Vice President,

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HOSA Vice President and is a member of FBLA and UIL teams.

She has received the Academic Blankets in Geometry, Pre-Calculus and Calculus.

Her hobbies include shopping, watching movies and baking.

Patricia said she was thankful to be recognized with the honor.

"I felt extremely grateful to be selected by my peers as Band Sweetheart," Patricia said. "Being in this organization for four years has

shaped me into the person I am today and that is thanks to my fellow guard and band members."

Her future plans are to attend UT-Austin and major in biology with hopes of becoming a physician's assistant.

She said her mom is her role model because of everything she has done for her.

Her favorite food is wings and favorite subject is math.

"I have always enjoyed it (math), and it is a fun subject to learn," Patricia said.

Getting to know Mr. Russell

By ODALES ADAME
Tigertalk Staff Writer

In each issue of the Tiger Talk, the newspaper staff features a different teacher to ask questions. This issue spotlights Larry Russell who teaches Chemistry I, Physics, and serves as the UIL Science team coach.

How long have you taught at MPHS?

This is my 27th year at MPHS.

What inspired you to pursue physics?

My college degree was actually in Mechanical Engineering, which is basically applied physics. I was always interested in math and science. At the time I was in school, we took several field trips to Monticello and Winfield for tours of the generating plant and mining operations.

I was always impressed by the engineers and their knowledge of the operations and could see myself one day working in that environment.

What do you like best about being a teacher?

With the range of grades that I teach from sophomores to seniors, I enjoy seeing the progression of students from the time they enter my classes with limited math skills to the point that they are graduating with the ability to think and tackle problems that they had never given any thought to before.

Who was your biggest role model?

I was fortunate to have a number of teachers that I regarded as role models when I was in high school. Jerry and Mary Hearron probably had the greatest impact on developing my math and science skills.

They say that you tend to teach in a way that models the way that you were taught. I think I borrowed many of the techniques that I use in my classroom from their teaching style. I was able to not only be their student but was also able to be colleagues with them for a number of years.

When I was hired at MPHS, I took the spot that my Chemistry II teacher, George Leon-



Russell is a huge Texas A&M college football fan.

berger, vacated. I never say that I “replaced” Mr. Leonberger because I didn’t feel like you could replace his unique character.

Even to this day while I’m writing responses to these questions, I’m diagramming the sentences in my mind thanks to Bill Ellis who taught freshman English classes.

What is your favorite thing to do when you’re not teaching?

I enjoy traveling with my family. We’ve taken trips to Washington D.C., Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon, and Mount Rushmore. We usually take a trip to Florida in the summer every year.

What is your favorite band/singer/song

I probably have the widest range of taste in music. If you were to shuffle the songs on my ipod and play them all in a row, you would hear southern guitar rock by the Marshall Tucker Band, the Bellamy Brothers, traditional country music of George Strait and Alan Jackson, old Memphis style music of

artists like Wilson Pickett, and some four part southern gospel quartet style music.

If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?

I think Australia would be interesting to visit. I love their accent.

What’s the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?

My dad always told me to check the oil in my vehicle often, the gasoline will take care of itself.

What’s your favorite sport to watch and which team do you root for?

I love college football. Since I am a Texas A&M University graduate, the Aggies are of course my favorite team.

What’s one item you want to own that you don’t?

I would like to have an antique car like a Model A or a Model T.

Have you ever played an instrument?

I was a member of the MPHS band in the percussion sec-

See Russell, Pg. 22

Pg. 21 Tigertalk



From left are Isaac Hernandez, Ethan Harbour, Jackelin Gomez, Clayton Brison, Devin Castaneda and Miguel Segura.

Math, science teams win 15 medals

The high school UIL Math and Science teams competed in the Spring Hill Virtual Math and Science meet on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Overall the high school teams earned 15 individual medals and all three math teams placed in the top three.

Results for each events are as follows:

Calculator Applications (2nd place team)

10th grade: Devin Casta-

neda 2nd, Isaac Hernandez 3rd, Clayton Brison 5th

11th grade: Jackelin Gomez 5th

12th grade: Miguel Segura 1st

Overall: Miguel Segura 2nd Mathematics (3rd place team)

10th grade: Isaac Hernandez 3rd, Ethan Harbour 4th, Devin Castaneda 5th

12th grade: Miguel Segura 5th

Overall: Miguel Segura 5th Number Sense (3rd place team)

10th grade: Ethan Harbour 3rd, Devin Castaneda 5th

12th grade: Miguel Segura 5th

Science

10th grade: Natalie Crockett 3rd

The MPHS math and science teams are coached by Osias Hernandez and Larry Russell.

Russell from Page 21

tion and still play drums at my church.

Where did you work before this position?

I worked for several companies in engineering positions. I've worked for companies that manufactured oil pumps, aircraft parts, agricultural spraying equipment, and electrostatic precipitators.

What are your pet peeves?

I don't like to hear students say that they don't want to take particular courses because they are too hard or that they will never need them. I'm not sure

how they know that until they try it. Too many students close doors for themselves because they don't take advantage of the opportunities afforded them.

What's the best advice you can give someone who is interested in pursuing physics?

I would encourage students to take advantage of the math and science classes that we offer at MPHS.

I feel that our math and science courses do an excellent job of preparing students for any endeavor they wish to pursue.

Do you collect anything?

I don't know that I collect anything in particular. I just don't get rid of anything. I've come to the realization while trying to get ready to move my classroom because of the construction that I am a pack rat.

What are you looking forward to in the coming months?

I'm ready for our daily routine to get back to normal without wearing masks.

I've had a hard time this year learning names and recognizing my students outside of class since everyone is wearing masks.

WHAT WILL YOU BE AT NTCC?



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Tiger Roar

Who is your favorite music artist?

Tiger Roar page by Tigertalk Staff Writers Angel Acuna and Miguel Arrellano



“Juice Wrld”
-- Wayne Smith



“Little Richard”
-- Jerrius Vickers



“Herencia de Patronos”
-- Anderly Calderon



“Rex Orange County”
--- Brock Shavers



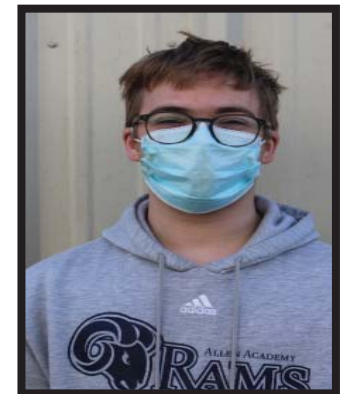
“Eminem”
-- Ruben Carreon



“NF”
-- Lesley Ortiz



“Gary Winthorpe”
-- Oscar Tellez



“Kurt Cobain”
-- Gavin Rider



“Le Fe Nortena”
--- Lesette Cruz



“The Weeknd”
--- Adrian Nava



“Suicide Boyz”
--- Rafael Garcia



“Jeru the Damaja”
Mount Pleasant High