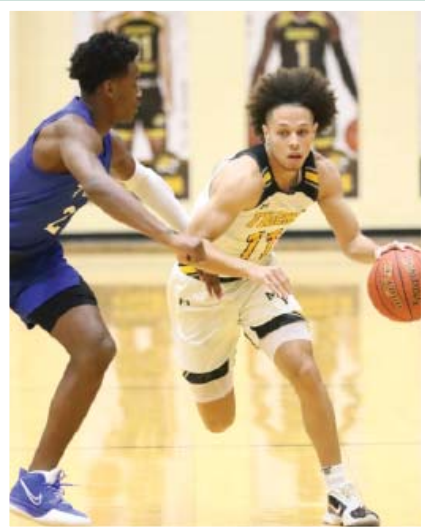


Tigertalk

Inside:



**Basketball
begins**



**UIL Debate
at UT Meet**



**Christmas King and Queen
Tommy Arredondo
and Katie Ochoa**

What's Inside

Stories & Photos

Cheerleaders.....	Page 2
Mr. and Miss MPHS.....	Page 3
Christmas Parade....	Pages 4-5
Debate.....	Pages 6-7
Class Officers.....	Page 7
Debate.....	Pages 8-9
Class Favorites.....	Page 8
DAR.....	Page 9
NHS.....	Page 10
NTHS.....	Page 11
FFA.....	Page 12
Senior Spotlight.....	Page 13
TxPSTA.....	Page 17
Dress Code.....	Page 14
Athletic Signings.....	Page 15
Boys Basketball.....	Page 16
Girls Basketball.....	Page 17
Heisman.....	Page 18
Swim Team.....	Page 19
Mrs. Tigert.....	Pages 20-21
Tiger Dolls.....	Page 21
Elijah Rider.....	Page 22
Senior Superlatives.....	Page 22
Tiger Roar.....	Page 24



Cheerleaders get third

The MPHS Cheerleaders competed in the NCA North Dallas Regional in Rockwall on Nov. 7.

In the Game Day Coed Varsity division, the cheerleaders placed 1st in band chant, outscoring some 6A teams, and received a perfect score in visual appeal in fight song.

Overall, the MPHS cheerleaders finished 3rd in their division. The MPHS Cheerleaders are coached by Karissa Lopez.

Tigertalk

NEWS STAFF

Staff Writers, Photographers, Designers: Odalys Adame, Michelle Calderon, Edgar Mayo, Miller McCumbry, Audrie Mendoza, Isaiah Rodarte, Nathali Rojas and Caleb Whitten.

Advisor: John Whitten

Special Contributor: Kelly Cowan

The Tigertalk is published five-six times a year by the newspaper and journalism classes of MPHS. Address is P.O. Box 1117, Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455. Letters to the editor are encouraged but must be signed and the staff reserved the right to edit because of space. Submit all letters to Mr. Whitten in Room 401 of the CATE Building.



Mrs. Tigert designed and drew her own house plans

Emory, Villarruel picked as Mr. and Miss MPHS

By EDGAR MAYO
Tigertalk Staff Writer

High school seniors recently chose Tre Emory and Mireya Villarruel as Mr. and Miss MPHS in balloting done for senior superlatives

Emory is the son of Ashley Brown. In school, he participated in football and track. Tre was named to the Class 5A All State first team in 2020, and he has been selected first team all-district defensive lineman twice and won 2019-20 newcomer of the year.

Tre enjoys working out, playing video games, eating and sleeping.

When asked how it felt to be recognized Tre responded, "It's a blessing. I appreciate all the seniors that recognized me. It's such an honor!"

After high school he plans to attend Baylor University to get his degree in business/culinary arts, while playing football for the Bears. His role model is his mother because she's strong and independent and sacrifices her life for them and can get through anything.

His favorite food is hot wings, tacos, and McDoubles. His favorite subject is English because he loves Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Adams.

He would like to thank God for blessing him more than he deserves, and thanks all the coaches and teachers, mentors, his

friends and family that have supported him getting this far

"I love each of you," Emory said..

Villarruel the daughter of Mary Ann Flores and Julio Villarruel. Throughout high school, has been a part of TAFE, FCCLA, Student Council and Furr Ever Friends. Mireya is also a Social Sergeant for the Tiger Dolls and has received awards for Best Attitude, Spirit Girl of the Week, and also Tiger Doll of the Week. She also played volleyball for two years.

When asked how it felt to be recognized Mireya said, "it is an honor to be recognized by the seniors of MPHS and an honor to represent our campus. I take pride in the recognition and hope to keep the standards high. I'm thankful and blessed for all of my teachers and our Tiger family."

After high school, she plans to attend Texas Woman's University for four years and major in early childhood education with hopes of becoming an ESL teacher. Her role model is her sister Mayra because she's accomplished a lot as a young lady.

Her favorite food is any pasta, and favorite class is Practicum in Education and Training because it is preparing her for her future job.

"I'm so thankful and blessed to be on this campus and for our wonderful teachers and staff," Villarruel said.

CHRISTMAS PARADE



A variety of school organizations participated in the annual Mount Pleasant Rotary Christmas parade held the first Saturday of December.

Students in cheer, band, color guard and Tiger Dolls along with other school organizations were among those who took part in the parade.



CHRISTMAS PARADE



Debate team competes in national tournament

By MICHELLE CALDERON
Tigertalk Staff Writer

On the first weekend of December, the debate team travelled to Austin to compete in the University of Texas Longhorn Classic against private schools from various states across the country.

Connelly Cowan ended up being the 16th top speaker in policy debate at the national tournament, while Anthony Orellana ended being the 20th top speaker.

In Lincoln Douglas debate, Angelina Hernandez and Gopi Amin continue to grow as debaters in the varsity division, ending with good records, especially considering their meteoric rise.

Madeline Tumey-Simmons and Merlin Cardona did well in Dramatic Interpretation and Congressional Debate.

Taylor Hubbs competed in International Extemporaneous Speaking and almost advanced after placing second in one of her rounds.

Cowan and Orellana will return to Austin on Jan. 10th to compete at state, the preliminary round taking place on Jan. 11th. If they pass, they will compete on Jan. 12th, the finals taking place at the state capitol.

While speaking with debate coach Enrique Martinez, he said that although the semester provided them with some challenges, he is "glad to say that the members of this team are a solid and brave bunch. They have stepped up and learned from all of their competitive rounds, regardless of whether they won or lost. I am very proud of the new members for staying moti-

See Debate, Pg. 7



Front row from left are Gopi Amin, Merlin Cardona and Angelina Hernandez. Middle row from left are Anthony Orellana, Connelly Cowan, Madeline Tumey-Simmons, and Ms. Angela Priefert. Back row from left are Taylor Hubbs and Debate Coach Enrique Martinez.



Orellana and Cowan both placed in the Top 20.



Freshman Class Officers



Sophomore Class Officers



Junior Class Officers



Senior Class Officers

Class officers elected

By **AUDRIE MENDOZA**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The student body has chosen their class officers for the 2021-2022 school year.

The senior class officers are President Elizabeth Lockett, Vice-President Alexander Vanriijn, Secretary Anna Claire Wall, and Treasurer Tommy Arredondo.

Leading the junior class are President Madeline Plascencia, Vice-President Na-

talie Crockett, Secretary Camdon Johnson, and Treasurer Anthony Orellana.

In the sophomore class are President Sophie Greco, Vice-President Angelina Hernandez, Secretary Hope Powell, and no treasurer in this class.

And the freshman class officers are President Luke Thurman, Vice-President Diya Desai, Secretary Kate Ball, and Treasurer Gopi Amin.

Debate from Page 6

vated and working hard, and the returning members have played a significant role in that. Everyone is buying into the cohesion of this team, seeking each other for help and reference. All of this is allowing everyone to grow together upwards.”

After the holiday break, the debate team intends on competing in various tournaments with the first major tournament being the UIL

State Congress tournament in mid-January.

In late January, the Cross Examination teams will be competing in the UIL CX District Tournament. The next few months will be crucial, as the students will be seeking to qualify for UIL and Texas Forensics Association state and the National Speech and Debate Association national tournament.

Coach Martinez hopes to take their learning experiences into the spring season as they look forward to competing and qualifying for several major tournaments.

“I am very proud of the growth, improvement, and progress that each member and the team has made since August. Now we look forward to taking that and competing at the highest level possible in each circuit.”

UIL teams preparing for spring

By ODALYS ADAME
Tigertalk Editor

With COVID-19 having various mutations coming out and no concrete answers, many organizations are cautiously moving forward with their events. One of them happens to be the MPHS UIL team.

The UIL team has consistently had students make it to regionals and even reach state; however, the 2019-2020 year for them was cut short due to lockdown. Last school year they made up the lost opportunities and plan to do the same this year.

“We are hoping for a sense of normalcy this year after last year’s online tournaments. So far so good,” Mrs. Regina Crouch, UIL coordinator, said.

Already, MPHS UIL has hosted an invitational where they placed third overall. During that event, two students placed first place in their category, Isaac Hernandez for Calculator Applications and Odalys Adame for Copy Editing.

The teams are already preparing for the busy schedule for next semester as district

meet gets closer.

“We have four tournaments in January and February to prepare for district in March,” Crouch said. “CX district is also in January – so we will start up quickly after the holiday break.”

Teams such as Literary Criticism have already proved their determination as three members placed top six in the recent invitational – Taylor Hubbs, Chelsea Maldonado, and Vanessa Bayna. Other teams such as the Calculator Applications team have done also well with three members placing top six – Ethan Harbour, Param Poudel, and Jackelin Gomez.

“I’m incredibly proud with the way things have been going thus far,” Mr. Enrique Martinez, UIL debate coach, said. “The students have been working hard and I believe we’ll see good things from them during the spring semester.”

UIL is set to have multiple tournaments throughout the early months of 2022 and many have set their eyes on reaching the state level.

Students pick class favorites



Freshmen Sanaey Eaves
and Luke Thurman



Sophomores Angelina Hernandez
and Harrison Wall



Juniors Jose Trejo and Adriana Orona



Seniors Mireya Villarruel and Tre Emory

Cowan named DAR Good Citizen

Senior Connelly Cowan, was recently selected as the MPHS Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen.

The Martha Laird Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsors the DAR Good Citizen program in our area. This contest is designed to honor an outstanding young person in a high school's senior class who demonstrates the four qualities of a DAR Good Citizen: Dependability, Service, Leadership, and Patriotism.

Cowan has held numerous leadership roles in campus organizations. She is a two-year Captain of the Debate team, Vice-President of the National Honor Society, and Captain of the UIL Current Events team. She has also served as Debate team President and Class President while in high school.

In addition to leadership, service to the community is another important characteristic that good citizens possess. Cowan is the founder and operator of Connelly's Classroom, an annual school supply drive providing school supplies to students in remote areas of Guatemala. Started in 2012 when she was just seven-years-old, Connelly's Classroom has provided over 15,000 individual supplies to areas of Guatemala like Sarstun and Chocoma. She has also spent time volunteering at Titus County Cares and with the Pilot Club League of Dreams.

Cowan is a two-time UIL state champion in Informative Extemporaneous Speaking and holds four additional UIL state medals in Cross Examination and Congressional Debate. She is a National Merit Commended Scholar and a 2021 Texas State Board of Education Student Hero. She has received Academic Blanket Awards for Pre-AP English I, Pre-AP Chemistry, AP Chemistry, and Dual Credit Physics.

She is undecided on where she will attend college, but she is planning to major in Government or Political Science with plans to attend Law School.



Cowan with Principal Craig Bailey

Being selected as the MPHS Good Citizen provides Cowan the opportunity to participate in the scholarship portion of the program at the local Chapter level. Each contest entry will be evaluated by independent, non-DAR judges and the winning entry will advance through the state and national levels of judging. She is the daughter of Collin and Kelly Cowan.

Choir students advance to area

Fourteen choir students participated in Pre-Area auditions on Dec. 2 at the Region 8 Service Center in Mount Pleasant. Four have advanced to Area auditions in January: senior Abril Ramirez (2nd chair second soprano), junior Litzy Gonzalez (4th chair second alto), senior Eduardo Joshua Espinoza (4th chair first tenor), and sophomore Clayton Miller (5th chair first tenor).

"I am proud of the tenacity these young musicians have exhibited as they have worked diligently in preparation for the first 2 rounds of auditions and continue to prepare for the upcoming audition," said MPHS Choir Director, Nancy Vines.

Area auditions will be held Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022 at Texas A&M University—Commerce.



From left are Gonzalez, Espinoza, Ramirez and Miller.



NHS new inductees are pictured with officers.

NHS inducts new members

By **CALEB WHITTEN**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The high school chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) recently inducted 71 new member during a ceremony on Nov.1. Inducted were 62 juniors and nine seniors.

With the returning 50 members, that brings the total members to 121.

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.

Officers of the MPHS Chapter are President Rossy Banegas, Vice President Connelly Cowan, Secretary Abril Ramirez, Treasurer Rachel Rodriguez, Parliamentarian Delaila Aleman and Historian Taylor Hubbs.

The 2021-2022 new members include seniors

Tommy Arredondo, Kyle Cates, Norberto Martinez, Luiz Olvera, Monserrat Rivero, Kimberly Robles, Evelyn Rodriguez, Andy Salas, and Jonathan Tolentino.

New juniors who were inducted include Wendy Alarcon, Manoa Bagsic, Reese Ball, Vanessa-jane Bayna, Paris Beard, Hannah Bowles, Clayton Brison, Geovanni Calderon, Merlin Cardona, Madison Carpenter, Chloe Carter, Devin Castaneda, Giselle Castillo, Payton Chism, Jenna Cook, Natalie Crockett, Norma Delgado, Paulina Diaz, Alexandra Estrada, Anna Kate Fisher, Cesar Flores, Alan Garrett, Isabel Gonzales, Maranda Gonzalez, Perla Guzman, Ethan Harbour, Jordyn Hargrave, Isaac Hernandez, Karli Jo Hill, Kylie Humber, Nayeli Jaimes, Camdon Johnson, Jose Lopez, Gyselle Lozano, William Luck,

Marcela Mata, Samantha McClenan, Gracelyn McClendon, Anthony Orellana, Adriana Orona, Madeline Plascencia, Param Poudel, Lizzette Ramirez, Mary Reeve, Elijah Rider, Xitlali Rivas, Natalie Rodriguez, Chris Russell, Fernanda Salazar, Briana Sanchez, Emma Sellers, Camila Serrano, Emily Shelton, Arenia Tigert, Jose Trejo, Evelyn Valente, Amy Vazquez, Michelle Vazquez, Kendall Walker, Jack Welborn, Caleb Whitten, and I'Yana Williams.

Members of the MPHS National Honor Society Faculty Council are LeAnne Blalock, Gina Crouch, Ana Deciga, Jamie Doan, Kristi Houchin, Ann Jenkins, Mandy Jones, Maryna Otero, and Larry Russell.

The MPHS National Honor Society Advisors are David Clark and Angela Priefert.



NTHS inducted 93 new members at their ceremony.

NTHS holds induction ceremony

Ninety-three Mount Pleasant High School students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) at a candle-light ceremony on Oct. 25.

To be a member of NTHS, a student must be enrolled in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) class, maintain a cumulative weighted GPA of 5.1, be a member of a CTE organization (FBLA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, FFA, FCCLA, TPSA), complete service hours and maintain a clean discipline record. The 93 juniors and seniors join the 20 returning senior members.

New members for 2021-2022 are: Wendy Alarcon, Saul Alvarado, Tommy Arredondo, Vanessa Bayna, Paris Beard, Hannah Bowles, Trinitee Brannon, Izabella Cano, Alondra Carrero, Giselle Castillo, Kyle Cates, Roberto Cigarroa, Jenna Cook, Natalie Crockett, Melanie Delacruz, Norma Delgado, Rosa Delgado, Paulina Diaz, Alexandra Estrada, Alondra Garcia, Luis Garcia, Gabriel Garza,

Ladi Guereca, Perla Guzman, Ethan Harbour, Kayla Hernandez, Karli Hill, Kylie Humber, Giselle Ibarra, Camdon Johnson, Taniah Johnson, Madelyn Knight, Allen Ledesma, Jose Lopez, Rheagan Lopez, Alison Majors, Chelsea Maldonado, Pablo Mata, Marcela Mata, Leslie Mayo, Samantha McClenan, Gracelyn McClendon, Garrett McQueen, Zuliannette Mejia, Nancy Netro, Ilse Ojendis, Anthony Orellana, Adriana Orona, Hiromi Parra, Candace Perez, Neida Perez, Kimberly Pina, Madeline Plascencia, Jocelynn Ponce, Viridiana Portillo, Jacqueline Ramirez, Jasmin Ramirez, Lizzette Ramirez, Tiffany Rangel, Mary Reeve, Joselyn Reyes, Elijah Rider, Noemi Rios, Dulce Rivera, Monserrat Rivero, Kimberly Robles, Evelyn Rodriguez, Natalie Rodriguez, Chris Russell, Denise Saldivar, Briana Sanchez, Jeremiah Segovia, Camila Serrano, Erica Soc, Madison Thompson, Amiah Thornton, Galilea

Torres, Jose Trejo, Shakira Valentin, Alexander VanRijn, Melissa Vasquez, Amy Vazquez, Javier Vazquez, Michelle Vazquez, Kendall Walker, Kurion Walker, Anna Claire Wall, Jack Welborn, McKinna Wooten, Dayanara Yepez, Silvia Zaldivar, and Pedro Zuniga. Exchange student, Filippo Zunino, was inducted as an Honorary Member.

The returning senior members are Delaila Aleman (President), Hugo Bernardi (Vice President), Rossy Banegas (Secretary), Micah Tucker (Treasurer), Michelle Calderon (Historian), Aachal Amin (Parliamentarian), Anahi Valente (Officer at Large), Carlie Cunningham, Ruby Ferretiz, Jenny Flores, Jesus Gonzalez, Luz Gonzalez, Karigan Fox, Hannah Harvill, Beth Lockett, Jordan Neal, Jonathan Tepetate, Keller Thompson, Esteban Trejo, and Matthew Tucker. Sponsors for the organization are MPHS Career and Technology teachers Donna Davis and Jackie Scoggins.



From left are Townson, Houchin, Rubio and Ellis.

FFA students compete at area

The FFA Public Relations and Agricultural Issues teams competed at the Area 6 FFA Leadership Development Event (LDE) competition at Texas State Technical College in Marshall on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Fifty-five schools across the Northeast Texas region competed in fifteen LDE events showcasing speaking and leadership skills.

The Public Relations and Agricultural Issues teams previously advanced from the district contest held at NTCC on Nov. 5.

Public Relations team members Jacob Townson, Raegan Houchin, Genevieve Rubio, and Lincoln Ellis placed 12th in the area out of the 36 teams registered.

The Public Relations contest requires teams to create and perform a script that promotes the FFA to an assigned audience.

This year's audience was a service organization. The Public Relations team is advised by Susie Hearn.

Agricultural Issues team members Angel Nava, Bra-



From left: Nava, Brazos Brown, Easley and Karson Brown.

zos Brown, Ethan Easley, and Karson Brown placed 10th in the area out of the 20 teams registered. The Agricultural Issues contest requires teams to create and perform a script over a topic that is currently affecting agriculture, presenting both the pros and cons of their selected topic. This year's agricultural topic and presentation was over eminent domain.

The Agricultural Issues team is advised by Leigh

Ann Freeman.

Area 6 FFA President and MPHS senior Sam Brown assisted judges and contest officials and announced contest results to the contestants as they were submitted by the judges.

MPHS FFA will move its focus to major livestock shows and FFA Career Development Events (CDEs), which include competitive teams like livestock judging and poultry evaluation.

Senior Spotlight on Keller Thompson

By MILLER MCCRUMBY
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Each issue of Tigertalk spotlights a senior on campus who is involved in numerous activities.

This issue features Keller Thompson, who excels both in academics and on the athletic field. He was chosen All-School Boy by the teachers earlier this year.

1. Have you enjoyed your time here as a Mount Pleasant High school student?

Yes

2. Are you involved in any extra-curricular activities?

Yes, I am involved in varsity football, baseball, NHS, HOSA, and NTHS.

3. What are your plans for after high school?

I plan to continue playing baseball in college.

4. What has been your favorite memory through high school?

Playing on the baseball team with my brother.

5. What is something you hope people remember about you once you graduate?

That I was kind and strived to be a good person and athlete.

6. Are you kind of scared or nervous about life after graduation?

Yes, because I have never lived away from my family.

7. Who has been your favorite teachers throughout your time here at MPHS?

Mrs. Merriman but I have appreciated and



Thompson leads Tigers onto football field.

liked all of my teachers.

8. What is your favorite subject... and why?

Math, just simply because it comes super natural to me.

9. What was the biggest challenge you faced in high school?

Becoming self-dependent and learning to become more independent.

10. What advice would you give upcoming freshman?

Take school work serious as soon as you enter high school because your GPA carries and do not procrastinate.

Calderon advances to state in TxPSTA

In early December, TxPSTA students competed in a law enforcement/fire fighter competition at Grand Prairie High School.

At the event, senior Michelle Calderon advanced to state in booking procedure as she finished second at the competition.

Students competing were:

Memphis Heller, Kaitlyn Reese, Nayeli Jamies in Building Search; Jamies also competed in the obstacle course

Nayeli Rivera in Bunker Gear
Calderon in Opening and Closing Statement, Booking Procedure



Michelle Calderon qualified for state.

Students express their opinions on dress code

By ODALYS ADAME
Tigertalk Editor

Dress code has always been a hot topic of discussion for many school districts, including MPISD. While some districts implement uniforms, others rely on a dress code to regulate the student body.

The main reason for the dress code here is to “teach grooming and hygiene, to prevent disruption, and to minimize safety hazards,” but many students have expressed their disdain with the schools policy. From the 100 students surveyed of varying grades a substantial 89% of them said they believe the dress code here is too strict.

“I believe they’re way too strict on hair color, it’s literally hair. What kind of message is having your hair purple sending? It’s a way of personal expression, and when they strip that away it leaves room for disappointment within the students,” one student said.

While very little can be done to change the dress code, the option of uniforms has always been an alternative. From the survey, a total of 21% said they would be interested in uniforms. Uniforms offer a way for students to avoid getting into Dickies and allows for easy identification.

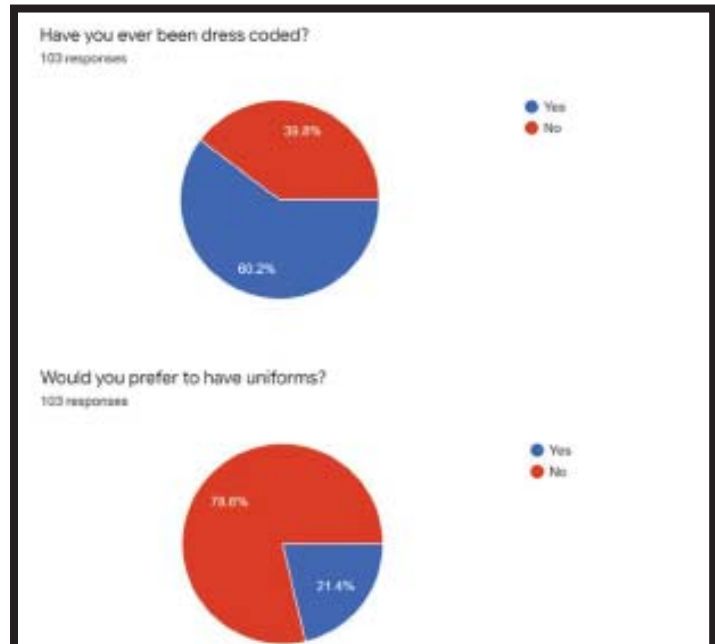
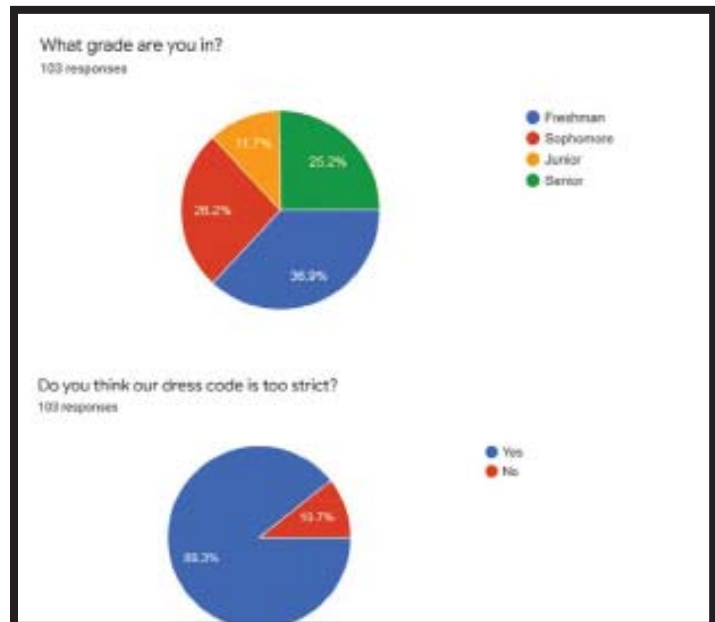
“I would be interested in uniforms so that way I don’t have to worry about what to wear each morning. I personally think faculty handles dress code well,” a student said.

“I haven’t seen that many people wear Dickies although I have seen many people out of dress code.”

The debate has always been vastly discussed as students feel as if they are specifically targeted by the dress code. Girls in particular have a stronger feeling towards the dress code as they feel their choice in clothing should not matter.

With new trendy clothing being made shorter and jeans having more holes, there is always a dispute between what is acceptable dress code and not.

“I feel as if we women should not have to worry about our natural body parts. We are human. I think we should be able to



wear whatever we want. I’m not saying come to school naked, but getting dress coded for a shirt that is a little short is excessive,” another student said.

As the school tries to create a safe environment for students, they are also being greeted with backlash from students who want the freedom to wear what they like.

Obviously, there has to be rules in place to keep the school from descending into chaos but it might be time to review the current dress code and let the students express their opinion on the issue.

Emory, McCrumby sign to play college football



Tre Emory signed to play with Baylor.



Miller McCrumby signed to play with Arkansas State.

Senior football players Tre Emory and Miller McCrumby signed on Wednesday, Dec. 15 to continue their football career.

Emory signed with Baylor, the Big 12 champion, and is expected to be a key defensive lineman for the Bears.

McCrumby, a wide receiver, signed with

Arkansas State University and should have a big impact with the Red Wolves.

Emory and McCrumby have been vital members for the Tigers football team the past three seasons. Both players were key members of the Tigers varsity team that advanced to the playoffs this season.

Tigers hoping for big season

By MILLER MCCRUMBY
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The reigning, back to back district champs Tigers varsity basketball team took the court back on in this month of November. The Tigers are led by the arguably one of, if not the best coaching staff in Texas headed up by Coach Joey Chism.

The Tigers had a lot of expectations through their deep playoff run last year, ultimately falling to the #1 team in Texas 5A basketball, Lancaster by two points. This basketball team is completely different however; extremely young, losing a handful of seniors that played a big contribution to the team's success last season.

The Tigers opened up their season at home versus a good Tyler Lions team, they ended up beating them by four. After that, the MP Tigers travelled into Dallas to play in the annual fall classic, they ended with a record at 2 and 2.

After the tournament, they spent some time with their families and friends for Thanksgiving and were back at it again Saturday afternoon, playing former district opponent in the Greenville Lions. They ended up running away with the game putting up 74 points to Greenville's 47, a solid win and great entertainment for the people at Willie Williams's Gym.

The Tigers put that in the past and prepped for a game versus another ex-district opponent against Royce city, this game went back and forth the whole way, even going into an overtime. The bulldogs would answer and the tigers come right back, however; Royce City was able to eventually pull away from MP and end up winning 62-55. This was a great game but you can definitely see the growing pains of Mount Pleasant in this contest.

After a couple of road games, the Tigers hosted the Tiger Town Tournament this weekend. Mount Pleasant was victorious in all three games they played as they defeated Nacogdoches, Denton Braswell and Dallas Lincoln.

The Tigers will begin district play on Dec. 21 when they visit rival Longview.



Payton Chism



Will Hills



Kelcey Morris

Lady Tigers hoping for playoffs

By **NATHALI ROJAS**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Lady Tigers basketball team is off to a strong start to their season as they have high hopes of reaching the playoffs again.

Paris Beard, a junior, said that the team works together to become a stronger team.

“We all push each other to be better,” Beard said.

Beard and fellow junior Jordyn Hargrave said the team has goals beyond just making the playoffs.

“We want to make it past the second round,” Beard said.

Hargrave agreed saying “we want to go deeper in the playoffs and win district.”

The Lady Tigers opened district play on Tuesday night against Sulphur Springs, coming away with a huge win.

They started out with a strong first quarter and never let up on their way to an easy 73-25 victory.

Hargrave said that the team is mentally stronger and working hard to make the playoffs.

A third-place finish in a tournament earlier this year has helped the Lady Tigers prepare for district. Now, they hope district will be preparation for playoffs.



Paris Beard



Jordyn Hargrave



Ella Cross

Seniors named Heisman winners

Seniors Sam Brown and Hannah Harvill have been chosen as the MPHS winners for the 2021 Heisman High School Scholarship program.

The Heisman High School Scholarship continues a 27-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.

Brown is a 4-year member of the MPHS football, baseball, and swim teams. He has also been an active member of the MPHS FFA program, serving as the Area VI FFA President for the 2021-2022 school year.

Brown has held numerous leadership positions within the MPHS FFA program including Greenhand Vice President, Reporter, Vice President, Paris District FFA officer Student Advisor, and he currently serves as the FFA President. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and the Titus County 4H Shooting Sports team, and has participated with the Mt. Pleasant Splash Summer Swim Team as a Junior Coach.

Brown is the recipient of the Titus County Fair Association scholarship and has won awards multiple awards including FFA honors Star Green hand, Top Hand, Outstanding Principles of Agriculture student, Swim team district qualifier, and CDE competitions in Forestry, Livestock Judging



Hannah Harvill and Sam Brown

and Farm Business Management.

He has volunteered in various capacities to serve his community with Casa, the Handi-capable Rodeo, Naples Rodeo, Delta Waterfowl, Wild Turkey Federation, Titus County Cares, and the Pilot Club League of Dreams.

Brown will attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, majoring in Animal Science and Ag Business with plans to work as a veterinarian or in an Ag business industry position. He is the son of Tommy and Carolyn Brown.

Harvill is a three year member of the Lady Tiger softball team and played volleyball for the Lady Tigers as a freshman. She has also been an active member of the MPHS FFA serving as the Parliamentarian for the

2021-2022 school year

She has been a part of the Ag Mechanics show team for three years and has shown rabbits and built ag mechanics projects for the Titus County Fair. She is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Harvill has volunteered to serve her community in multiple ways including fried pie making at Nevill's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, her church community garage sale, vacation bible school, repainting the church youth center, the Mount Pleasant Ag Mechanics auction, and the parking directing team for the Titus County Fair.

Harvill plans to attend Texas A&M University, majoring in Animal Science with plans to become a veterinarian. She is the daughter of Johnny and Shannon Harvill.



Front row from left are Kate Ball, Grelyn Goolsby, Hugo Bernardi, Reese Ball and Sophie Greco. Back row from left are Eli Rider, Jack Welborn and Jacob Elliott.

Swim team gearing up for district

By AUDRIE MENDOZA
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The high school swim team recently wrapped up their fall portion of their schedule and now are getting ready for district.

The swim team will compete at the district meet in Texarkana in January. We asked some members of the team about swimming.

What is your goal this year in swim?

"To improve my technique and set new personal records," Sophie Greco said.

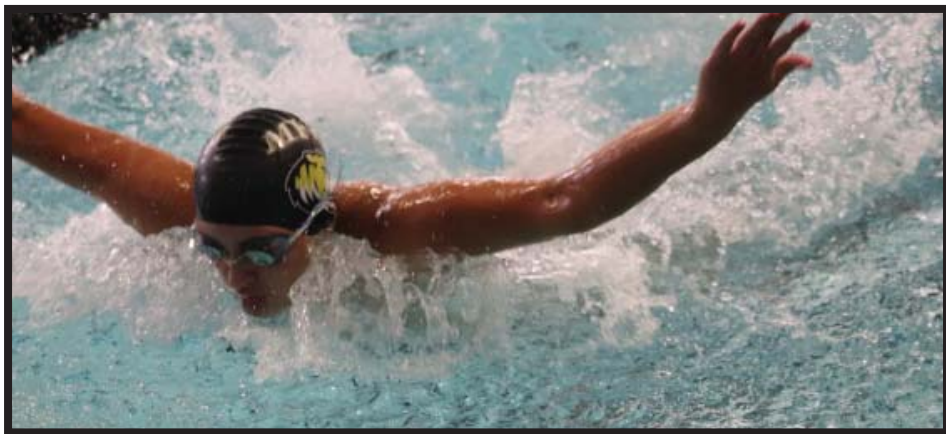
"My goal this year is to reach my maximum capacity and overall beat my fastest time," Hugo Bernardi said.

How do you and the team prepare for meets?

"The team and I prepare for swim meets, by having light workouts and having a carb load the day before," Bernardi said.

What is the biggest challenge you face being in swim?

"Not being able to breathe a lot," Jacob Elliott said.



Sophie Greco

"The biggest challenge I face is not having a lap pool facility as it makes it harder for all of us to practice," Greco said.

What do you like best about swim? Why?

"What I like best about swim is the people I've gotten closer to, because they make swimming more enjoyable," Greco said.

"I like the feeling right before I dive into the pool," Elliott said.

What expectations do you

have for the team or yourself in the spring?

"Some expectations that I have for the team and this spring, are to have better performances and not just beat other teams, but beat ourselves," Bernardi said.

"I hope the team qualifies for regionals, and I hope that I can make it to state my senior year," Elliott said.

"I really hope the relays and myself make it to regionals and set new personal/team records," Greco said.

Twenty Questions with Mrs. Tigert

By CALEB WHITTEN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

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

This issue spotlights Tammie Tigert, who teaches chemistry and AP/Dual Credit Environmental Science.

1. How long have you worked at MPHS and what do you teach?

16 years, chemistry and AP/Dual Credit Environmental Science.

2. What do you enjoy most about teaching at MPHS?

Getting to know my students and inspiring them to think.

3. What is your dream job as a kid?

I wanted to be a track driver. I even had a CB radio on my bicycle.

4. What do you like about the subject you teach?

I like to understand why matter behaves like it does and to apply that and solve real problems.

5. What are you most proud of?

I designed and drew my own house plans to scale on graph paper. I used to teach Geometry and it was exciting to apply that knowledge and not have to use someone else's pre-drawn blueprints.

6. What is your favorite genre of music and why?

I grew up on old country like Hank, Haggard, Waylon, and Jones. But the other part of me loves Hair Bands of the 80's

Pg. 20 Tigertalk



Mrs. Tigert designed and drew her own house plans

like AC/DC, Tesla, Van Halen, Aerosmith, Def Leppard – I've been to so many concerts.

7. Who is your favorite musical artist?

Elvis

8. What is your favorite movie and what do you like about it?

Finding Nemo – I love that it has science things I can refer to with my students and I love Dory's motto: Just keep swimming.

9. What is your favorite book?

The Bible – specifically Ephesians and Romans

10. What is your favorite TV show?

I really don't sit long enough to watch TV.

11. What would be your dream vacation?

Hiking and snorkeling at and around the Galapagos Islands, that would be amazing!

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

I look forward to many more weekend getaways to try new things and have more adventures.

13. If you could have a superpower what would it be?

I'd want Wonder Woman's powers: strength, super reflexes, speed and agility.

14. What is something unique you have done in life?

See Tigert, Pg. 21



MPHS Tiger Dolls are pictured with MPHS CIS Coordinator Trini Hernandez, MPHS CIS intern Jazmin Garcia, Tiger Doll Director Jatón Broach, and CIS board member Jennifer Lide.

Tiger Dolls donate items to CIS

The Mount Pleasant High School Tiger Dolls donated over 400 toiletry items to the MPHS Communities in Schools (CIS) for a Christmas donation drive.

This is the second year the Dolls leaped at the chance to volunteer for this CIS drive.

“These Dolls and their Director have the biggest hearts and are eager to help,” said Jennifer Lide, CIS board member. “I’m always blown away by their giving.”

Lide, along with MPHS CIS Coordinator Trini Hernandez, and CIS Intern Jazmin Garcia, received the items from the Tiger Dolls on Dec. 1.

“The timing is perfect,” said Hernandez. “These items are always needed and we greatly appreciate the donations.”

Communities in Schools accepts donations throughout the year.

For more information contact Trini Hernandez at thernandez@mpisd.net.

Tigert from Page 20

I had a master’s of science with zero debt, was teaching classes, married and had my first child all by age 24.

15. What is your favorite memory growing up?

My favorite childhood memory is being outside every summer playing with my best friends. We live in the country and would walk for miles and go “exploring” I always carried a knife and a stick for protection.

16. What was your fa-

vorite subject growing up? Why?

I don’t think I had a favorite. It would change each year depending on the teacher.

17. What is your favorite sports team?

I don’t care anything about sports.

18. Do you have a hobby?

Hiking, kayaking, biking and shooting guns.

19. Where is a place you want to visit that you haven’t?

I want to go to Utah this year to explore the Geology and hunt for fossils.

20. What is your favorite Christmas memory?

Santa Claus came to my room Christmas morning – I woke up and was in total shock (I was 6), He pointed at my mess under the bed and shook his head, I kept it clean after that.

Years later, I found out it was my Aunt dressed as Santa, but until then I was a true believer.

Rider accepted into NASA program

Junior Elijah Rider has been accepted into 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 on-line lessons, the highest achieving students will be invited to an all-expenses-paid, week-long visit to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston during the summer.

Selected participants will plan a mission to Mars while being mentored and



Rider was selected to take part in NASA high school program.

receiving guidance from NASA scientists and engineers.

The HAS program runs until the end of February. Rider will complete four

modules, each containing readings, multimedia content, quizzes, discussion posts, and activities. He is the son of Nathan and Lisa Rider.

Senior superlatives announced

By ISAIAH RODARTE
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.

Mr. and Miss MPHS --- Boys: Tre Emory; Girls: Mireya Villarruel

Most Athletic --- Boys: Will Hills, Miller McCrumby and Tre Emory; Girls: Haylee Martinez, Ladi Guereca and Kenia Vasquez

Most Talented --- Boys: Parker Colley, Pablo Mata and Jonathan Tepetate; Girls: April Ramirez, Mary Kait Heeren and Mariana Gonzalez

Most Likely to Succeed --- Boys: Keller Thompson, Nic Chappel and Parker Colley; Girls: Connelly Cowan, Taylor Hubbs and Achill Amin

Most Likely to be Late to Graduation --- Boys: Ed Wilder, Guillermo Sanchez and Sam Brown; Girls: Carlie Cunningham, McKinna Wooten, and Michelle Coronado

Best Dressed --- Boys: Evan Grissom, Evan Loreda and Hugo Bernard; Girls:

Keanie Covarrubias, Ebelin Castaneda and Anna Claire Wall

Best Smile --- Boys: Keller Thompson, Ed Wilder and Christian Jaimes; Girls: Carlie Cunningham, Evelyn Jasso and Mireya Villarruel

Most Dramatic --- Boys: Jahir Alonso, Dre Lewi and Isai Ramirez; Girls: Grelyn Goolsby, Genesis Roberson and Madison Grundy

Most Changed since Freshman Year --- Boys: Dolfus Sandoval, Jonathan Tepetate, Layne Pinckard and Elias Elizondo; Girls: Keanine Covarrubias, McKenzie Lide and America Ayala

Most likely to be Famous --- Boys: Tre Emory, JD Mendoza and Miller McCrumby; Girls: Seidy Castaneda, Anna Claire Wall and Emma Burrows

Best Friends Forever --- Boys: Elias Elizondo and Layne Pinckard, Matthew and Micah Tucker, Keller and Pilippo Zunino; Girls: Ebelin Castaneda and Keanie Covarrubias, Kerigan Fox and Grelyn Goolsby, Mary Kait Heeren and Deliala Aleman.

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!*



N **NORTHEAST TEXAS**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NTCC is an AA, ADA, Equal Opportunity Institution

903-434-8100
www.ntcc.edu



Tiger Roar

What is your favorite Christmas movie?

Tiger Roar page by Tigertalk Staff Writer Michelle Calderon



"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
-- Karli Hill, 11



"The Nightmare Before Christmas"
-- Andrew Avila, 11



"The Nightmare Before Christmas"
-- Chris Russell, 11



"Four Christmases"
--- Mr. Crouch



"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
-- Amelin Cardenas, 12



"A Christmas Carol"
-- Angie Hernandez, 10



"Home Alone"
-- Jacob Townson, 12



"Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer"
-- Krystelle Alipao, 12



"Home Alone"
--- Joseph Tolentino, 10



"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
--- Osiris Vargas, 9



"Home Alone"
--- Jessica Hang, 9



"Frosty the Snowman"
--- Mr. Martinez