

Tigertalk



**Homecoming King A'shad Smith
and Queen Jazlynn Chism**

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NHS officers for the 2025-2026 school year are from left Treasurer **Julian Chancellor**, Secretary **Brissia Alvarez**, President **Alessandro Greco**, Vice President **Wendy Valdez** and Parliamentarian **Alberto Avila**.

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Seniors select Smith, Chism as Homecoming King, Queen

By ALOANI LABOY
& ALEXIS GONZALEZ

Tigertalk Staff Writers

Seniors Jazlynn Chism and A'Shad Smith were named homecoming queen and king prior to the Tigers' win over Jacksonville..

Homecoming court members also included Ava True Fite, Chloe Smith, Kylee Strickland, Gerardo Chavez, Samson Perez and Deuce Thompson.

Chism, 17, is the daughter of Irene Mata and Billy Luna. She is a member of the soccer team and Student Council. Her hobbies including playing soccer both for MPHS and her club team, hanging out with her friends and family and listening to music.

Her role model are her parents. She plans to become a physical therapist after attending college. She would like to visit Europe one day and her favorite vacation spot has been Colorado. Her favorite foods are ribs and macaroni and favorite place to eat is Pluckers or Bahama Bucks.

Chism said her favorite class is health science practicum because she is learning to prepare for her future.

"I am thankful for my parents for raising me to the person I am today," Chism said.

Smith, 18, is the son of Courtney and Nisha Miller. Among his honors are being a member of National Honor Society, three-member of both the varsity football and basketball teams. He has served as football captain for the past two years.

Smith was named first team All District defense in football and earned second-team All District honors in basketball and Academic All District.

His hobbies include fishing, singing, playing football and basketball and coaching Little League. His role model is LeBron James and his future plans are to play college football and major in Finance/Business Marketing.

Smith wants to visit Bahamas one day, his favorite food is tacos and favorite place to eat is his grandmother's house. His favorite subject is math.

Fite is the daughter of Keres and Katie Fite. Her high school activities and honors include being a cheerleader and JV captain and UCA All American. She is a



Chism was crowned queen.



Smith was selected as homecoming king.

member of the swim team and earned Academic All-State honors and is a regional qualifier.

She is a member of NHS, STUCO, FCA, the health science program, and was a freshman class officer. Fite has earned bi-literacy endorsement, distinguished diploma and multi-disciplinary endorsement. Fite's hobbies are reading, swimming, volunteering, spending time with friends and family and exercising.

Her role model is her mom who Fite says "is the kindest, most helpful and impartial person ever. I wish to carry the same attributes."

Future plans include attending Texas A&M and major in nutritional science-human health with plans to become an OBGYN physician associate.

Her favorite vacation spot is Costa Rica

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and would like to visit Zanzibar, Africa. Her favorite food is sushi and favorite restaurant is Crab-N in Rockport. Fite/s favorite class is history because it helps her understand how the past has shaped today and encourages her to think critically about justice.

Smith, 17, is the daughter of Trey and Taylor Smith. She has been a four-year member of both cheerleading and the health science program. She is a member of the Practicum 2 Patient Care Tech program and member of FCA.

Her hobbies include running, volunteering at nursing homes, exercising and spending time outdoors. Her plans are to attend Texas Tech and become a psychologist. Smith's favorite place to vacation is Isla Mujeres and hopes to visit Fiji.

Smith's favorite food is her mom's cooking and favorite place to eat is Two Senoritas. She likes Practicum 2 best because she gets to learn about the human body.

Strickland, 17, is the daughter of Keith Strickland and Meredith Nilsson. Among her schools honors include two-time district golf champ with 11 tournament win. She has been first-team All District and Region three times.

She is a NSHSS member, led MPHS to its first ever girls golf district title, a girls varsity basketball student assistant and member of FCA.

Strickland's hobbies include playing golf, traveling, attending sports events, shopping and spending time with family and friends. Her role model are her parents and she hopes to be like them one day. Strickland plans to attend a four-year university to



Ava True Fite



Chloe Smith



Kylee Strickland

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play golf, major in sports law with hopes of becoming a sports agent. She would like to start her own firm with her family as well.

Chavez, 18, is the son of Azeneth and Ever Mora. He has been a four-year varsity football kicker, played soccer four years, named Sophomore of the Year and first-team All District in soccer. His hobbies include working out and his mother is a role model because she inspires him to be better.

His future plans are to play college soccer and achieve his goals. Chavez would like to visit Dubai and his favorite food is Chicken Express. His favorite subject is math because he is good with numbers.

Perez, 18, is the son of Maria S. Perez. He is a member of FBLA and earned Rotary Youth Leadership Award. His hobbies are reading and writing.

His heroes are his parents and his future goal is to become a dual license mortician and funeral director. He would like to visit Paris, France one day. His favorite food is Italian and likes to eat at Luigi's and his favorite class is English because he loves to write.

Thompson, 18, is the son of Keith and Kitsha Thompson. Thompson is a first-team wide receiver and defensive back in football for two consecutive years. He is also second team All-State and serves as a football captain.

His hobbies include fishing and hunting and his role model is his mother. He plans to Division I football at UTEP. His favorite place to visit is Utah, favorite food is burgers and favorite place to eat is Whataburger. His favorite class is history.



Gerardo Chavez



Samson Perez



Deuce Thompson

Football teams pick sweethearts

By **CHELSEA MENDOZA**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The 2025 sweethearts chosen by the football players this year were Pamela Dominguez for varsity, Jacquelin Damian for junior varsity, and Aubree Hawkins for freshman.

Dominguez is the daughter of Nedina and Jose Dominguez. She has been a member of Tiger Dolls, Student Council, FCA, and has participated in track for two years. Her hobbies include dancing, shopping, and spending time with friends. Her role model is her sister, Nayeli.

After high school, Pamela plans to attend Tyler Junior College and later transfer to Texas State University to major in sports journalism and communication. Her favorite vacation spot is Hawaii, and her favorite food is pasta. Her favorite class is Tiger Dolls because she gets to practice and spend time with her best friends. Her favorite place to eat is Taco Bell.

Damian is the daughter of Pedro and Magdalena Damian. She is involved in HOSA and Colorguard. Her hobbies include reading, sketching, arts and crafts, and binge-watching Netflix. Her role model is her mom.

Her future plans are to attend UT Tyler and become a pediatric nurse after finishing nursing school. Her favorite place to visit is Rome, Italy, and her favorite food is sushi. Her favorite subject is History because she has loved learning about it since she was little. Her favorite place to eat is The Mighty Crab.

Hawkins is the daughter of Amanda New-



Pamela Dominguez

man, a 2000 graduate of Mount Pleasant High School. She is a first-year MPHS cheerleader, a UCA All-American, Freshman Class President, and a member of Student Council and FBLA. Her hobbies include volunteering, watching TV, and spending time with friends.

Aubree plans to attend college and earn a business or education degree. She wants to visit Italy, and her favorite food is quesadillas from Restaurant Mexico. Her favorite subject is History because she enjoys learning about it.



Jacquelin Damian



Aubree Hawkins



Cook, right, and Alvarez, left, were honored as All School Boy and Girl by their senior classmates.

Staff selects Cook, Alvarez as MPHS All-School Boy, Girl

By CHELSEA MENDOZA
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The faculty recently selected seniors Carter Cook and Brissia Alvarez as 2025-2026 All School Boy and Girl. Each year the high school staff selects a senior boy and senior girl who represent the ideals and standards of MPHS. This honor is considered the highest a senior can receive because it is voted on by the staff.

Carter, the son of Dustin and Jamie Cook, is a member of National Honor Society, 3-time varsity football starter, 2-time team captain and earned PSAT national recognition. Cooks' hobbies include playing football, spending time with friends and family, and going to church. Cook plans on attending the University of Arkansas and pursue a degree in Kinesiology.

"Being recognized made me realize my efforts, character, and the way I treat others had truly made an impact on my peers, knowing that my teachers saw leadership, integrity, and potential in me, gave me a sense of motivation to continue growing into the successful man they believe I can be," Cook said.

His role model includes his parents and his favorite subject is English because he likes to write.

Alvarez, the daughter of Nelsi and Jorge Alvarez, serves as FBLA Chapter President, Student Council Vice President, NHS Secre-

tary, HOSA Secretary, a member of National Technical Honor Society, UIL English (Spelling, Copy Editing, Headline Writing, Editorial Writing, Ready Writing-silver state medal winner), Chick-fil-A Leader Academy, College Board First Generation, Rural and Small town, and has received Academic Blankets in World Geography, English 2, and English 1.

Her hobbies include reading (mostly Mystery genre), arts and crafts, watching shows and movies, and listening to music.

"I feel very honored, but most importantly I feel proud of myself," Alvarez said. "Receiving this recognition has made me realize that everything I have worked for is, in fact, worth it. It also has sparked a new sense of motivation in me, one that I know will guide me through the rest of my academic journey."

She plans on attending an university to major in Biochemistry and follow the path to becoming a Neurologist.

Her role model includes her mom, who she, "works hard and is extremely dedicated. She has supported me throughout everything and has stood as my rock."

Her favorite food is pizza ever since she was a kid and her favorite subject is math because, "not only does it challenge me in various ways, but it also encourages my growth."

Alvarez shares her gratefulness by saying, "Thank you to everyone who has pushed me to do my best. I wouldn't be here without you!"

Seniors De Leon, Perez named MPHS Band Beau, Sweetheart

By ABRIL FIGUEROA
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Mount Pleasant High School Goin' Gold Band and Colorguard selected Bruno De Leon as their beau and Esmeralda Perez as sweetheart. The two were recognized prior to the Tigers homecoming game against Jacksonville.

Bruno, son of Marisa Ramirez, is known for his strong work ethic and passion for music. He currently serves as Head Drum Major for the Goin' Gold Band, a role he has held for two years, and is also a state-qualifying powerlifter.

Bruno enjoys lifting and spending time with his family. He names his dad as his role model and plans to attend Henderson State University after graduation. His favorite subject is science because he finds it fun, and his favorite food is pizza. One day Bruno hopes to visit Italy.

Esmeralda is the daughter of Maria Ana and Luciano Perez, and is a familiar face in many school organizations. She serves as FBLA Treasurer, Colorguard Captain, and is an active member of TSA, NTHS, and NHS.

She has also earned the Spanish III Academic Blanket Award for her hard work in the classroom. Esmeralda has previously been a member of the UIL Math and Track teams.



Bruno De Leon and Esmeralda Perez

In her free time, she enjoys dancing, hiking, running, and spending time with her boyfriend, angel. She considers her mom her biggest role model, saying she inspires her to work hard and never give up.

After high school, Esmeralda plans to earn her associate degree, then transfer to

UT Dallas to study pre-law and become a lawyer. Her favorite subject is History because it helps her understand how the past has shaped the world today and how she can make a difference in the future.

She loves tamales, enjoys eating at Braum's and dreams of visiting California.

Tiger Dolls compete in showcase

The Mount Pleasant High School Tiger Dolls competed virtually with 31 other schools in the American Dance/Drill Team Virtual Halftime Showcase, submitting videos of a pep rally pom to "Conga" and their halftime high kick routine to "Abracadabra".

The Tiger Dolls earned a Division I rating for both routines. They also received three additional specialty awards from industry vendors including Best High Kick from Happy Feet, Best High Kick Precision from Pastry, and Best Pep Rally from Leapin' Leotards.

The Dolls will close out football season, make their annual appearance in the Mount Pleasant Christmas Parade, and will host Merry and Bright Bingo Night with Santa



and the Tiger Dolls on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 5:00 p.m. in the MPHS cafeteria. The Ti-

ger Dolls are under the direction of Jatón Broach.



National Honor Society new inductees

NHS inducts new members

Eight seniors and eighty-four juniors were inducted into the Mount Pleasant High School chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) during a special ceremony on Monday, Oct. 27 in the Mount Pleasant High School Auditorium.

The new members join the 46 returning senior members of the chapter bringing the total membership to 138.

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

Officers of the 2025-2026 MPHS Chapter are President Alessandro Greco, Vice President Wendy Valdez, Secretary Brissia Alvarez, Treasurer Julian Chancellor, and Parliamentarian Alberto Avila.

The 2025-2026 new members are seniors Caitlin Anderson, Joseline Hernandez, Mackenzie Jaime, Miah Melendez, Valerie Moss, Sabrina Otero-Svirskia, Abi Pathak, and Kelly Ventura. Junior inductees include Janely Aguilar, Jaylen Alvarez, Adriel Bagsic, Dalia Balderas, Carson Bell,

Erick Bernardi, Emma Berry, Luke Brown, Kaelyn Carrillo, Areli Castanon, Pedro Castillo, Yaretzi Chavez, Sebastian Contreras, Zoie Craig, Drew Cross, Christian Cruz, Rebecca Dunn, Maglynn English, Lia Esguerra, Maritza Estrada, Emelia Ethridge, Ashley Flores, Elias Garcia, Irlanda Gasca, Violeta Gomez, Monserrat Gonzalez, Pilar Gonzalez, Alexia Hawkins, Isaac Hernandez, Natalie Hines, Adriana Hipolito, Carly Horn, Kenlee Jagggers, Caydon Johnson, Conley Johnson, Elaine Kartley, Jayden Loewen, Genesis Lozano, Anna Lucio, Estevan Marroquin, Grace Martinez, Heidi Martinez, Nancy Martinez, Alexis Mata, Axel Mata, Makayla Mather, Odalys Mejia, Kaleb Memije, Daena Mendez, Allison Mendoza, Joselyn Mendoza, Melany Morales, Jared Munoz, Camauri Myrick, Declan O'Quinn, Aurian Peoples, Jacolby Pogue, Bowdrie Priefert, Gisel Ramirez, Joselyn Ramirez, Cooper Rider, Christian Rojas, Araceli Salazar, Nicole Salazar, Victoria Salmeron, Karyme Sanchez, Karen Sandate, Alfredo Santillan, Denise Serrano, Francisco Serrano, Jaden Shelley, Isaiah Shepherd, Mary Beth Snyder, Kristopher Suarez, Jordan Tarrant, Valeria Tejeda, Adan Torres, Maximus Tutone, Sara VanHoose, Aidan

Veasley, Adira Wario, Maggie Wilson, Gabby Zachry, and Alba Zeqaj.

Returning Senior members of the MPHS NHS Chapter are Brissia Alvarez, Preston Arnold, Alberto Avila, Joshua Bello, Valerie Cassio, Alyse Cervantes, Julian Chancellor, Carter Cook, Sanniyah Crabtree, Aaliyah De La Rosa, Neftali Delgado, Angel Farias, Sandy Farias, Abril Figueroa, Audrey Fisher, Ava True Fite, Angel Flores, Mayte Flores, Juan Gallegos, Ashley Garcia, Emily Garcia, Audrey Garrett, Jamie Garrett, Raquel Garza, Esther Gonzalez, Alessandro Greco, Marisol Hipolito, Ana Lara, Marely Lopez, Jennifer Luna, Jaydy Martinez, Chelsea Mendoza, Mattie Merriman, Aidan Perez, Alex Perez, Esmeralda Perez, Maribel Ramirez, Carmandy Rocha, Karlee Rodgers, Alondra Ruiz, Alondra Santos, Kortland Stovall, Wendy Valdez, Valeria Vega, Zuleyka Velez, and Francisco Zapata.

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

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

New staff joins high school

By YAHIR GONZALEZ
& JASSIEL HERNANDEZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

MPHS has a number of new staff this school year from teachers to coaches, a new counselor and other staff members.

Madia Arredondo is the new freshman counselor. She previously worked with Communities in Schools and was placed at Frances Corprew Elementary and Mount Pleasant Junior High. This is her first year working at a school.

Arredondo graduated from Texas A&M University-Commerce, earning a bachelor's degree in social work in December 2021 and a masters in 2023.

Madia's parents were born and raised in Mexico. They moved to the United States in their late teens. She has two brothers, one currently in high school. Both Madia and her brother are high school graduates.

Her family likes going out to new places/restaurants, watching movies and taking walks. They're proud of their Mexican culture and one of their favorite things to do is watching Mexico's national soccer team play.

An interesting fact about Arredondo is that she presented a project at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in a first-generation conference while working on her masters.

About being back at MPHS, Arredondo said "it feels like a full circle moment coming back and working at the high school I graduated from. It feels like a home. I love seeing how much the staff genuinely cares for the students. It makes me realize there's so much that goes on behind the scenes to make sure every student is successful, and I wasn't even aware of it when I was a student here."

Madia added, "I love seeing kids excited about their extracurriculars and showing school spirit because I used to be that kid. I also really enjoy seeing how much the band program has improved. That program will always have a special place in my heart."

Among her hobbies are read-



Arredondo

ing, playing the piano, working out and finding ways to serve the community.

Chance Buckner is a new assistant athletic trainer. He went to the University of Texas at Arlington, and earned a Master of Science degree in athletic training.

He is married to Megan Buckner, who is a teacher in Pittsburg. They have a son Levi who is 2 years old and they are expecting a daughter named Eleanor in December.

He has eight years as an athletic trainer, working at Pittsburg in 2018-2019 and Burleson Centennial from 2019-2025.

Buckner traveled to Alaska over the summer to be the best man in his best friend's wedding. While there, he saw wildlife such as multiple moose, porcupine, puffins, seals and a humpback whale.

What he likes best about MPHS is "the family aspect of being part of the coaching staff is better than any job I have held prior. It is also nice to return to East Texas where the athletes are more polite and respectful compared to the DFW."

Celina Burris is the new head tennis coach. A graduate of Stephen F. Austin University with a Bachelor of Science degree, Burris has been married for 29 years and has 3 daughters. Their names are Calie, Cassidy, and Coryn.



Buckner



Burris

This is the 25th year in education. She has taught in Groesbeck ISD and Birdville ISD before coming here to Mt. Pleasant. She was also a tennis professional at the Richland Tennis center in North Richland Hills.

She likes how everyone at MPHS is friendly and empathetic. She said "kids seem to be pretty respectful here."

Jordan Dickerson is another former graduate who has joined the high school staff. Dickerson is serving as assistant softball coach.

Dickerson graduated from Tarleton State University with bachelor's degree in construction management and a master's

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in business administration.

This was Jordan's first year of teaching. She graduated in 2024 with her MBA. Prior to joining MPHS, she worked as an assistant project manager with Polk Mechanical.

One interesting thing for Jordan is she has the opportunity to coach and learn from two coaches she played for.

"It's been a really meaningful full-circle experience," Dickerson said.

She added that she likes "getting the opportunity to come back to the school where I graduated and give back to the students the same way others did for me. The students and staff here are very nice and respectful, which makes it a great place to be."

Christi Lowry is the new Ready, Set, Teach teacher for the high school.

Lowry has been married 21 years to Brad Lowry, the president and chief lender for Pilgrim Bank and they have three children. Kinley, her oldest daughter graduated from Chapel Hill and she is currently enrolled at East Texas A&M Honors College and pursuing a degree in Pre-Veterinarian Medicine and plans to attend veterinarian school to become a large animal vet.

Her son, Bradon is a sophomore at Chapel Hill and plays golf, baseball, and on the fishing team. Her youngest daughter, Karli is in 8th grade in the Mount Pleasant Junior high. She plays volleyball, and is on the advanced dance team, she is in barrel racing, pole bending, and goat tying for the rodeo team.

Lowry has taught for 18 years, teaching preschool, first, second and third grades along with Principles of AG, Floral Design, High School Discovery, and a junior high cheer coach for two years.

When she was 12 years old, she was cast in the Broadway musical Cinderella in Dallas. She spent two and a half years performing with the cast including Phyliss Diller who played as the fairy godmother.



Dickerson



Lowry



Marroquin

She danced with the members of the Joffrey Ballet Company as part of her role. Lowry said she loves the classes she teaches and she knew she wanted to be a teacher and now she gets to encourage her students who also may have a dream in education.

Jaclyn Marroquin is the new CTE secretary. Her family consist of her father Roberto, her mother Mercedes, siblings sister Jocelyn and brother Estevan, and her pet dog Oakley. Her father was born in El Salvador then he came to the USA around age of 9. The rest of her family was born in the states.

Jacklyn's brother is a high school student and all of her family are MPHS graduates. She had lot of family time on weekends watching Esteven play soccer. They like to go to

football games also to watch the band and colorguard.

This is her first job working for the school district but has volunteered at Vivian Fowler Elementary. She previously worked at a doctor's office for three years.

"Coming back to the high school I graduated from honestly feels like a full-circle moment. It sometimes feels like I never left," Marroquin said. "The staff here really care, and now that I'm behind the scenes, I see how much they do to help every student succeed. It's kind of crazy how much I didn't notice as a student. Being around such kind and respectful people makes it easy to want to give back."

Maya Polley is a new English 3 teacher. She is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University and has a 1-year-old daughter, Noni.

This is her fourth year of teaching. After receiving her master's degree, she taught at Texas Middle School, teaching English in the Special Education Department.

She then taught at her alma mater Liberty-Eylau, serving as head volleyball coach and teaching Algebra II.

Something interesting about Polley is that started a small business when learning how to sew last summer. She now sells her toiletry bags along with other smaller projects.

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Staff from Page 11

Polley said what she likes best about MPHS are the students and how respectful they are.

Monica Tedford is the new high school secretary. She is married to her husband Chad and she has two kids. Her son is attending Texas Tech University and her daughter attends MPJH.

This is her 8th year in the education system. She previously worked at Winnsboro ISD.

She has spent the past 12 years, traveling and watch her son play sports and her daughter compete in dance. She grew up with three brothers and loves all sports.

She likes that everyone is welcoming and they understood her coming from an elementary school to high school and that is less chaotic and more peaceful.

She loves to travel and be with her family or with her friends. She goes with her parents every Sunday for a family dinner.

Morgan Thurman is a new AP Biology teacher. She graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry from Southern Nazarene University. She earned a masters degree in biology from the University of North Texas.

Morgan and her siblings are all graduates of MPHS. They are

Hawkins earns trip to state in cross country

MPHS junior Alexia Hawkins qualified for the UIL State Cross Country Meet this year.

Hawkins ran in the Regional meet in Arlington and finished in 18th place out of 172 runners with a personal record time of 19:36. She was the 6th individual qualifier after team qualifications.

As a team, the Lady Tigers placed third in the district with Hawkins finishing second and Mary Beth Snyder 8th.



Polley

proud supporters and alumni of the band and colorguard.

Prior to coming to MPHS, she taught chemistry for two years at Frisco Heritage High School.

An interesting part about her life is that she has been to Ireland twice and taken a class a university there, learning the Irish language.

"I love the sense of camaraderie and support between all areas and organizations," Thurman said.

"Students don't just do an activity - they belong with a family with their organization."



Tedford



Thurman



Cosmetology opens salon to public

Students in Mount Pleasant High School Cosmetology I and II kicked off the new school year with a soft opening on Tuesday, Nov. 11, where invited guests from the MPISD Administration Building,

SAFE-T, and the community enjoyed a relaxing day of services. Students provided haircuts, facials, pedicures, gel manicures, and a variety of other services.

The MPHS Cosmetology department will officially open to the public on Tuesday, December 9 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and again on Tuesday, Jan. 13. Providing services to the public allows the students to accumulate the number of hours needed toward earning their cosmetology license.

Appointments are encouraged and can be made by calling 903-434-8658. A list of services and prices can be viewed on their website at www.mpisd.net/mphs/mphs-cosmetology/.

Mount Pleasant High School offers three years of instruction in Cosmetology starting with an introductory course for sophomores, followed by Cosmetology I and Cosmetology II for juniors and seniors.

Students completing the program can graduate with their cosmetology license at the same time as their high school diploma and immediately begin working in the cosmetology field.

To learn more about the MPHS Cosmetology program, contact MPHS Career and Technology Director, Jay Silman, or Cosmetology instructor, Aleshia Rivera, at 903-575-2020.



A customer gets a manicure from junior Jazelyn Zaldivar.



Junior Sha'nala Denise Hill blow dries a patron's hair.



Cosmetology instructor Aleshia Rivera advises Osiel Andrade.

Senior Spotlight - Jennifer Luna

By **RAYMOND SANCHEZ**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

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

This issue spotlights Jennifer Luna, who is involved in FBLA as Area 6 Chapter President, HOSA, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Student Council and Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy.

1. What is your favorite high school memory and why?

My favorite high school memory has been going to the UIL Academics state competition with my teammates and getting to eat at Texas Roadhouse because it was such a fun time, and I got to bond with my friends and coaches.

2. Who has been the most influential person in your high school journey and why?

My UIL coaches, Mrs. Crouch and Mr. Whitten because have taught me so much these past few years and have overall helped me become a better student.

3. What have you learned about life during your high school years?

I have learned that it is important to have a good work-life balance and it's okay to prioritize yourself and your needs sometimes.

4. What extracurricular activities or clubs have you been involved in, and what did you enjoy most about them?

I am involved in UIL Academics, FBLA, and HOSA. What I enjoy the most about these extracurricular activities is getting to go on trips and competitions.

5. What classes and teachers did you enjoy the most and why?

The classes I've enjoyed the most are English 3 with Ms. Merriman, Physics with Mr. Russell, and Algebra 2 with Mrs. Russell because these are very challenging topics, but also very rewarding.

6. What friends helped you to survive high school and how did they help?

The people that have helped me survive high school are April, Brissia, Evy, Wendy, and my friends in Health Science class. They make every class a joy to be in with their humor and conversations.



Luna hopes to become a surgeon.

7. What are your plans after graduation and where do you see yourself in ten years?

My plans after graduation are to attend my dream school, University of Southern California, to major in Health and Human Sciences and eventually become a surgeon. In the next ten years I see myself working as a surgeon!

8. What is something you have gained over the last four years?

Something I have gained in the last four years is friendships and a lot of knowledge!

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

If I could go back and change one thing about my high school experience, it would be becoming more involved when given the opportunity to.

10. What is a hidden talent or interesting fact about yourself that most people don't know?

An interesting fact that most people don't know about me is that I own a lot of pets.

Senior Spotlight - Carter Chism

By DANIELE CULVINAR
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Each issue of Tigertalk spotlights a senior who makes an impact in high school. This issue features Carter Chism, a starting point guard for the boys basketball team and four-year varsity member.

1. What is your favorite memory from your time in high school?

My favorite memory of high school is bonding with teammates before and after games.

2. Who has been the most influential person in your high school journey and why?

The most influential person in my high school journey has been my dad. We have shared a lot exciting moments together on and off the court.

3. What extracurricular activities or clubs have you been involved in, and what did you enjoy most about them?

My only extracurricular activities consist of basketball and video games. This summer I played AAU with De'Arron Fox who's a professional player with the Spurs.

4. What are your plans after graduation? (e.g., college, gap year, work, military)

After graduation I plan on continuing my basketball career hopefully soon I will know where that is.

5. What are you most looking forward to in the next chapter of your life?

In the next chapter of my life I'm looking for new challenges on and off the court – and plan on traveling the world to see different places and people.

6. What is one piece of advice you would give to incoming freshmen?

One piece of advice I would give to an incoming freshman is have fun, enjoy the journey b/c it goes by fast.

7. What challenge did you overcome during high school that you are particularly proud of?

One challenge that I over came is Hs is being able to handle my dad as a coach.

8. If you could go back and change one thing about your high school experience, what would it be?



Chism hopes to play basketball in college.

If I could go back and change one thing about my high school experience it would be losing in the 2nd round of playoffs a season I shared with my older brother Payton.

9. What is a hidden talent or interesting fact about yourself that most people don't know?

A hidden talent about myself that people don't really know is that I can make music and rap.

10. How do you hope to be remembered by your classmates and teachers?

I hope to be remembered by my teachers and classmate as funny kid with a cool and chill personality.

FBLA hosts fall workshop

The Mount Pleasant High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members hosted the Area 6 Fall Leadership Conference on Oct. 22 on the MPHS campus.

In addition to the MPHS chapter, eight other chapters representing Harts Bluff, Chapel Hill, Harleton, Gilmer, Athens, Tyler High, H. Grady Spruce, and the Mount Pleasant Middle Level chapter attended the event.

More than 380 students and advisers attended the workshop, making it one of the largest ever and surpassing last year's attendance.

MPHS Principal Jason Adams, MPHS Career and Technology Education Director, Jay Silman, MPHS FBLA Lead Advisor and State Board President, John Whitten, and Area 6 State Vice President, Alessandro Greco, greeted and welcomed all the guests in attendance.

Chuck Howard, former U.S. Air Force pilot, personnel officer, and logistician, served as keynote speaker.

He spent 24 years in military prior to going into the business world and is now the owner of the Mount Pleasant Chick-fil-A.

Howard spoke on how customer service is vital to business success and



Alessandro Greco leads a workshop on "Break the Ice."



Chuck Howard, owner of Chick-fil-A, served as keynote speaker.

how community ministry is bigger than a food transaction at Chick-fil-A. His vision statement is "Reach Out and Feed Our Community – Inside and Outside the Restaurant."

Students attended four workshops including

"Break the Ice", "Shark Tank", "Team Building" and "Using Short Videos to Create Income" led by Kaymon Farmer (The Content Creator).

Shark Tank Champions included MPHS students Esme Perez, Jocelyn

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Hernandez, Isabella Furnish, Aaliyah Gholston, and Emily Garcia. They invented Traxogen which replenishes oxygen in a classroom instead of having to use fans or opening doors and windows.

Other winners created Constructo, floating robotic devices used to reduce time and accidents in road construction, and the Quiet Vacuum, a quiet wireless vacuum.

MPHS FBLA will compete at the annual Area VI Leadership Conference on Dec. 9 at the Region VIII Education Service Center.

The area leadership team includes John Whitten, State Board President and Area 6 Board member from Mount Pleasant, Alessandro Greco, Area 6 State Vice President from Mount Pleasant, Jennifer Luna, Area 6 President from Mount Pleasant, Joselyn Pastrana, Area 6 Vice President from Chapel Hill, Lainee Cameron, Area 6 Secretary from Harts Bluff, Nevaeh James, Area 6 Historian/Reporter from Gilmer, and Wendy Valdez, Area 6 Parliamentarian from Mount Pleasant.

MPHS FBLA Advisers are John Whitten, Shanta Lockett, and Raquel Yanez. And MPISD FBLA Middle Level Advisors are Dana Armstrong and Matthew Armstrong.



Shark Tank winners include from left are Esmeralda Perez, Jocelyn Hernandez, Isabella Furnish, Aaliyah Gholston and Emily Garcia.



Evelyn Hernandez and Brissia Alavarez take part in Shark Tank.



From left are MPHS FBLA Advisers Raquel Yanez, Tracy Porter, John Whitten, Shanta Lockett and MPISD Middle Level Advisors Dana Armstrong and Matthew Armstrong.

20 Questions with Coach Rolf

By RAYMOND SANCHEZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Each issue of the Tigertalk, the newspaper staff features a different teacher. This issue puts the spotlight on Coach Zac Rolf, who also taught Audio-Visual Production classes and Digital Art.

1. Why did you become a teacher?

I became a teacher because growing up I saw my mom build incredible relationships with her cheerleaders that have lasted to this day. The time and energy she poured into her girls' lives through something she loved was something I could see myself doing one day.

2. What subjects and sports do you teach and what do you like about them?

In the classroom, I teach Digital Arts and Audio-Visual Production. The first few years of my career I wanted to add value to programs through social media. I would ask photography students to share their work with me from games and create graphics for game days, district awards, schedules, etc... and our former principal and Mr. Whitten saw my work and trusted me to take over the AV program here at the high school.

My favorite part of my classroom is seeing the creativity and personality of my students shine on camera and highlighting all the great things that go on at Mount Pleasant High School. On the field, I wear many hats. In football I coach Quarterbacks, am the Hudl Coordinator, and the Ansrs Coordinator. In baseball I coach our catchers and am the JV Head Coach. My favorite part of coaching is seeing how attention to detail and consistency in tasks turn into huge moments under the lights.

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

The most challenging thing I encountered when I started teaching was staying organized week to week. When you are starting from scratch, it's difficult to balance creating assignments and tests, keeping up with a gradebook, on top of your duties as an assistant coach.

4. What is your favorite part of teaching?

My favorite part of teaching is seeing plans come to fruition through my students. When I started teaching AV, we were reviving a program almost. There was lots of brainstorming and planning that went into the creation of Mt. Pleasant Mornings. I heavily credit the amazing students I had in my classroom for the first two years for what it has become today, and I hope that the community is as proud of it as we are.

5. How do you balance out personal life and teaching?



Rolf talks to quarterback Carter Cook.

It is very difficult, but what it comes down to is having an intentional focus on "What's most important?" My students and student athletes mean a great deal to me, but I wouldn't be who I am today without my wife and our circle. The second part of balancing work and life is the idea of being where your feet are. When I am at work, it's my job to be the best version of myself for my kiddos. When I am at home, it's my job to be the best version of myself for my wife. Wherever I am, I just try to put my sole focus on being present and serving others.

6. What would be a piece of advice you would give to an aspiring teacher?

I would encourage aspiring teachers to ask questions. Experience means a great deal in a field where you are having to reach students from all walks of life and deliver the same message in multiple different ways. Adjustability and self-reflection are a must when you are in the classroom. Who is better than the people around you with a wealth of experience and knowledge to help you grow. I rely heavily on Mr. Whitten every day.

7. What do you like best about coaching?

My favorite part of coaching is building relationships. Taking kids to dinner, camps, showcases, and going to games with former players.

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This is a great way to get to know a student athlete off the field. The other side of that is individual settings in practice. This is where I really get to have fun and some freedom in planning how to fix issues or teach the more fundamental areas of the position. I am really big at doing really small things at a really high level.

8. How do you motivate athletes and students?

John C. Maxwell has a principle of leadership called The Law of Buy-In that states "People buy in to the leader, not the vision". To lead and motivate you must have strong relationships with your students.

9. Who inspires and motivates you to be a better teacher and coach? How do they motivate you?

There are a lot of men who inspire me to be a better teacher and coach. Former bosses Dustin Russell and Dustin Majewski, then current boss Joe Cluley inspires me to be better through mentorship and leading by example. Mr. Whitten inspires me to be a better teacher with the interest and insight he gives me for my program.

10. What would be your dream sports event to attend and why?

My dream sport event would be to attend the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. What would really be a dream is seeing Texas A&M win a National Championship while I'm there.

11. If you could have dinner with any three famous people, who would you pick and why?

I would go with Theo Von, Caleb Pressley, and Nate Bargatze. I think if you got those three in a room together the conversation would be incredible.

12. What is one of your favorite assignments to give students?

My favorite assignment to give to students are flyers/graphics. You get to really see who the creatives in the room are.

13. Who would you most to see in concert that you haven't already?

I've been to so many of my favorites already. At this point I would have to go with Colter Wall.

14. How does your family support you?

My wife supports me in so many ways. From traveling to games, hosting student athletes for dinner, helping me make gift baskets, praying for me, holding me accountable, and so much more. She is fully invested in supporting me and helping me build towards my goals of being a Head Coach.

15. What do you do in free time?

During my free time I love having our friends over for food and a fire, going to college base-



Rolf encourages one of his players.

ball games, hunting, and golfing. There isn't much free time in this profession, but the little bit I do get is very valuable.

16. What is the best place you had vacation at?

Going to the beach in Mexico with my wife is the best place I have vacationed. We have been twice.

17. What was your favorite class in high school? What did you like about it?

My favorite class in high school was Mr. Whitten's Tiger News Talk class. I liked getting to be creative and goofy in our interviews and segments.

18. If you could go back in time, what decade would you pick to live in and why?

I would choose the 90's. Great music, great baseball, great styles.

19. What do you like best about MPHS?

The best part about MPHS is how supportive the district is. Administration is always finding ways to make sure we have everything we need to run our programs efficiently, and other teachers and coaches are super supportive of each other.

20. What is your favorite meal, including dessert?

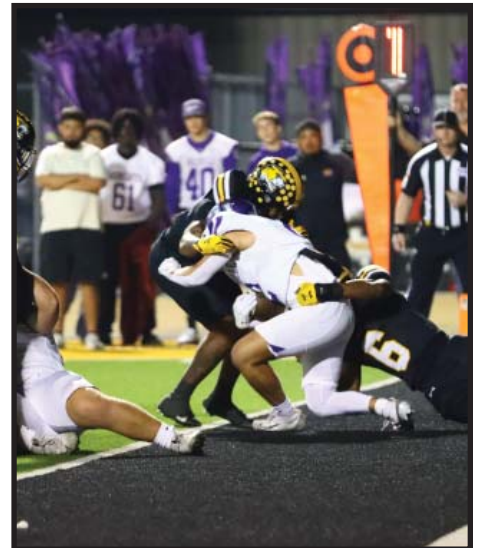
My favorite meal is hands down steak and potatoes with a slice of turtle cheesecake for dessert.

Football team makes playoffs

The Tigers varsity football team qualified for the playoffs with a huge 50-3 victory over Hallsville in their season finale.

Mount Pleasant took third in the district behind Texas High and Marshall and finished 4-2 in district play.

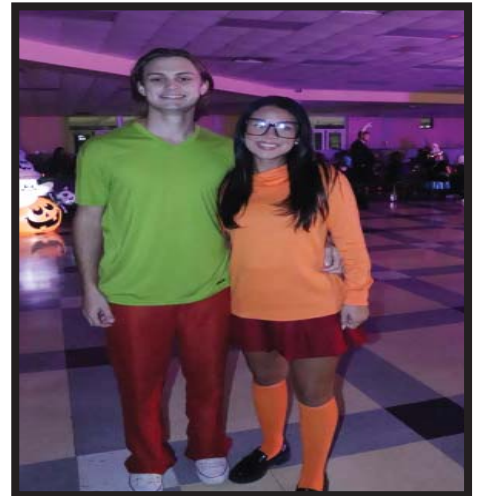
The Tigers advanced to face Montgomery on Nov. 14 in the first round of the playoffs. It marks the first playoff appearance for the Tigers in four years.



Band, colorguard wow crowds with Beetlejuice halftime show



HALLOWEEN PARTY



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