

Martin senior Ruth Hong earns \$40,000 Amazon scholarship

Martin High School senior Ruth Hong is one of 100 students across the nation to receive the \$40,000 Amazon Future Engineer College Scholarship.

The computer science whiz will have the opportunity to participate in a 12-week paid internship at an Amazon location in summer 2023.

Martin is on a roll, with students receiving the award back-to-back. Chijioke Mgbahurike won last year after applying on a whim. After Hong saw Mgbahurike win in 2021, she set a calendar reminder 12 months in advance to apply for the scholarship this year.

"I'm a dreamer with big aspirations, so I made sure to tailor my high school experience to be able to reach all of my goals," says Hong. "I like to make plans and go after them relentlessly. That's just how I am."



Her teachers and counselors agree with her sentiment, too.

"She is the most tenacious, determined student I know," says counselor Sara

Stringer. "She's a true overcomer and doesn't let anything stand in her way."

"Ruth is always willing to help out and mentor younger students," says STEM Academy coordinator Marianne Varner. "She's aware everything is not just about her, and it's amazing to see someone at her age give so much of themselves to others."

Hong's dedication to academics and service goes far from unnoticed. She was president of the school's computer science club and vice president of Key Club, while also being an active member of the National Honor Society, Library Youth Ambassadors and the swim team.

Hong plans to study in the fall at Minerva University, majoring in computer science. Minerva's curriculum is tailored to active, global learning. The unique approach to education will allow Hong to travel and study in a different country every semester. Locations like Korea, Germany and Taiwan, should keep it interesting.

MISD students earn an 'A'

Following a two-year assessment process known as Measures of Academic Progress, Mansfield ISD student growth is in the 99th percentile in multiple grade levels in both reading and math.

This is a major testament to MISD students, staff and families, and their hard work is why MISD is a destination district committed to excellence. The district is getting closer every day to fulfilling the tenets of Vision 2030 by providing each student what they need to thrive and graduate life-ready.

RWG wins state hoops title

The Dr. R.W. Goines STEM Academy in South Arlington (2455 S.E. Green Oaks Blvd.) might be one of the area's newer schools, but it is already making big news, thanks to RWG's recent Southwest Athletic Interscholastic Conference state basketball championship.

RWG Stem Academy had its first graduating class last spring, and now the senior Lion basketball players in this year's class have something significant to add to their resumes.



Merit Finalists Grant Miranda and Sana Kohli (center) are pictured with Oakridge administrators Kellen Lewis, Jim Andersen, Christine Metoyer, and Head of School Jon Kellam.

Oakridge Merit scholars

Sana Kohli and Grant Miranda, seniors at The Oakridge School, have been named National Merit Scholarship finalists for 2022.

This distinction places both students in an elite group of about 15,000 students - less than one percent of the nation's graduating seniors.

Kohli says she plans to study computer science in college. Miranda says he plans to double major in computer science and economics.

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Valedictorian Sana Kohli, left, plans to attend The University of Texas.
Salutatorian Mia Petersen, right, plans to attend The University of Virginia.

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Drake University
East Central University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
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George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
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The Oakridge School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, physical disabilities, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational and admissions policies, financial aid, and other school sponsored programs.



Photo: Tarrant County College

TCC Southeast campus will host College for Kids camps this month

Tarrant County College's Southeast Campus (2100 Southeast Pkwy.) will host College for Kids summer camps from June 6-23. Sessions are geared for students heading to the third through eighth grades next fall.

Camp classes will be held from Monday-Thursday each week, starting on June 6. Class times will be from 8-11:50 a.m. for morning sessions and from 1-4:50 p.m. for afternoon sessions. All students planning to attend the camps must attend an orientation session from noon-1:30 p.m. or from 5-6:30 p.m. on June 2.

Curriculum for the classes runs the gamut, with sessions focusing on science, math, reading, art, robotics, engineering, debate, sports, ecology, writing and more. For a complete class schedule, visit tinyurl.com/2m29xt7y

The Primrose School difference

Primrose School of N.E. Green Oaks (1900 N.E. Green Oaks Blvd.) is unlike conventional daycare in Arlington, in that it provides children with a robust early education and child-care experience. The school is owned and operated by Lynne Groff, LMSW, and her mother Isobel Morton.

Programs are offered for children of all ages and include Infant, Toddler, Early Preschool, Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, After School, and a Summer Adventure Club.

Primrose schools offer Ages & Stages Questionnaires®, Third Edition (ASQ®-3) and Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional, Second Edition (ASQ®:SE-2) as developmental screening tools to help teachers provide more personalized support to children.

primroseschools.com/schools/ne-green-oaks

Hooray for Hardman!



Mary Hardman, a kindergarten teacher at St. Paul's Preparatory School, recently completed her 21st year at the school.

Photo: St. Paul's Preparatory School

HOPE Tutoring widens scope

HOPE Tutoring is a nonprofit organization offering free, individualized tutoring to Arlington students, primarily in low-income areas of Arlington. HOPE will be adding second graders next school year and piloting a new reading program. HOPE trains volunteers to provide tutoring and employs site managers to supervise tutoring sessions.

The organization was formed in 1996 as a faith-based outreach with a mission of helping children reach their full academic potential. While HOPE continues to nurture and benefit from an ongoing collaboration with area churches, HOPE Tutoring does not offer any religious teaching.

Through the years HOPE has expanded its programs. Most recently, HOPE completed a successful pilot program at McNutt Elementary where it brought tutors to the students during the school day and offered on-campus after-school tutoring. HOPE offers virtual tutoring options and has expanded its after-school sites to include three Arlington Public Libraries as well as area churches. HOPE also offers free, academic summer camps.

The services provided by HOPE are made possible through a Community Development Block Grant from the City of Arlington through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as through individual donations and foundation grants.

For more: hopetutoring.org

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PCA's Cort MacDonald chose baseball, but he had plenty of options

In a recent "Luke's Thoughts," a blog written by Luke Wickiser, the author shared the fascinating story of Pantego Christian athlete Cort MacDonald, who recently signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Stanford.

But, as Wickiser noted, MacDonald very easily could have chosen a different athletic path, as he excelled in five different sports while at PCA: baseball, football, basketball, track and golf.

"From his freshman year until now, he's played five sports a year," Billie Hicks, PCA's head baseball coach told Wickiser. "He's the kid during basketball season, after practice he's in the cages hitting to make sure he's ready for baseball season. During football season, after practice he's in the gym shooting jump shots, free throws and getting his legs underneath him to get ready for basketball. He's just the type of kid that any coach would like to have."



It's this relentless work ethic, and desire to be the absolute best at what

he does, that sets this "normal" Texas kid apart from the rest, Wickiser wrote. This persistence has enabled him to not only play five sports and earn top grades, but he also has the highest batting average in Pantego baseball history, and has been named All-State in football, basketball, baseball and track. And beginning this fall, he'll be a scholarship athlete at Stanford University.

Wickiser wrote that the foundation for MacDonald's success was laid down very early in his life, something he credits to support from his family, starting with his dad.

Cort's older brother Caden, likewise, played a role, as he was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers and is a pitcher for the Princeton University baseball team. As Wickiser wrote, Cort looks set to follow in his older brother's footsteps as he gets set to play for Stanford.

The entirety of this "Luke's Thoughts" blog entry is a great story about a great local hero. You can access it here:

lukesthoughts.com/2022/05/16/cort-macdonald-walking-his-own-path

St. Joseph students excel

Five students from St. Joseph Catholic School placed at the recent Private Schools Interscholastic Association State Meet at TCU.

Thomas Nguyen earned first place in Spelling, third place in Number Sense, and seventh place in Mathematics. Thien An Phan earned first place in Number Sense and fourth place in Mathematics. Madison Phan earned fourth place in Number Sense. Brigid Connors earned fifth place in Maps/Graphs/Charts and fifth place in Ready Writing. MJ Gumo earned fifth place in Mathematics.

Art fun at St. Maria Goretti



Image: St. Maria Goretti Catholic School

If you were on a quest this year to find some great young local artists - and some keen students of one of the favorite fruits of all time - you needed venture no farther than the classrooms of St. Maria Goretti Catholic School. There kindergarten students at the school created their art and then mock-consumed it as part of a school project.

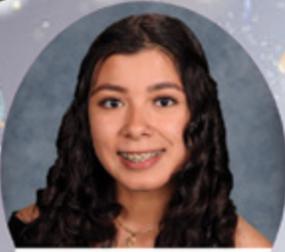
MISD track athletes medal

A dozen Mansfield ISD student-athletes took home medals after the recent UIL Track and Field State Meet in Austin.

The Timberview High School girls 4x100 relay team (Princess Miller, Adriane Nwonumah, Norah Nwonumah and Lola Mabon) won gold. Legacy High's Christine Mallard won gold in the 400-meter race and silver in the 200. Lake Ridge's 4x400 boys relay team (Jayden Blakey, Jacob Alexander, Chris Akins and Dominic Byles) won silver. Timberview's Taylor Fingers earned a silver medal in the long jump. Bronze medal winners included Mansfield High's Nathan Breese in the 400-meter wheelchair event and Timberview High's Glennis Woolridge in the shot put.

Congratulations, Seniors!

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**We're guessing
this UTA grad
is a Texan**



Photo: UTA

The University of Texas at Arlington handed out diplomas to more than 5,400 graduates during last month's commencement ceremonies at College Park Center.

The newest roster of UTA grads includes 115 doctoral students, a 25% increase over the previous year.

Upon receiving their degrees, the new graduates joined more than 250,000 Maverick alumni across the state and around the globe. The latest alumni group features hundreds of future nurses and teachers, the first cohort to minor in medical humanities, a former Marine sergeant who is dedicating his career to youth development and a remarkable athletic training student who persevered despite numerous medical challenges.

For the first time, new President Jennifer Cowley presided over the ceremonies.

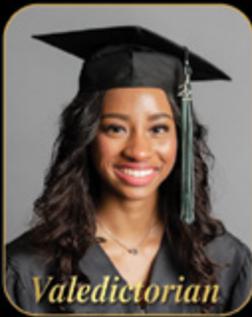
"Our primary focus is to provide our students with the knowledge and skills to prepare our students for rewarding careers and extraordinary lives. It's what we owe to our students and to the state of Texas," Cowley says. "This is a time of celebration for thousands of Mavericks. It is a privilege for all of us at UTA to have helped them along in their educational journeys."

Thank you to our sponsors!



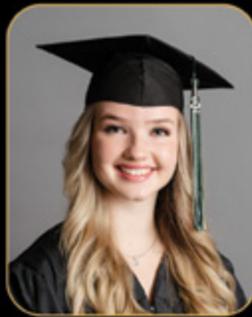
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Valedictorian

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