

Results of the 17th Annual Northeast Texas Poetry Contest

Student Winners of the Poetry Contest: First--Emily Hamlin (\$400), Second--Isabel Tresidder (\$300), Third—Kaden Groda (\$200), and Fourth-Yahir Garcia (\$100). Photo courtesy of Mandy Smith and the [Eagle](#)

The most

wild hog. The rest of the winners were either from elsewhere, or were Hispanics, born in Mount Pleasant. This too is new. The largest indigenous population growing up in Mount Pleasant in the 2020s are the offspring and even the grandchildren of the immigrants who

Two speakers highlighted the upbeat, regional sentiment expressed in the poems.



Daingerfield Mayor, Wade Kerley at the 2024 Reading: Professors Sparks and Yox in Background. Photo Courtesy of Mandy Smith and the [Eagle](#)

Daingerfield Mayor, **Wade Kerley**, originally from the Houston area, noted life's capacity for sudden changes, the challenge of unscripted tragedies in unemployment and health, and the way time demands erode artistic dreams that can go unfulfilled. Still, Northeast Texas and Northeast Texas Community College, in particular, provided his family a forum to appreciate life, return to the artistic aspirations of youth, and find a way to play off limitations with new opportunities. Computer Science Professor, Dr. **Will McWhorter**, enjoyed publishing articles and teaching at an Oklahoma University, but he finds Northeast Texas personable, relaxed, and invigorating. Where friendship and understanding flourish, there is the best chance for the best kind of life.

poetry judges again this year were **Dr. Anna Ingram**, Associate Vice President of Instruction, **Mandy Smith**, Professor of English, and Division Chair for Communications, and **Jennifer Sparks**, Instructor of English, and Director of Sigma Kappa Delta, the honorary English society on campus. **Sparks** also hosted the Reading at the Whatley. **Mileah Hall**, Associate Professor of Art, again judged the image part of the competition.

The winning Poems and Images are shown below:

Emily Hamlin Reading Poem

Photo Courtesy of Mandy Smith and The Eagle

“Come And Take It”

By Emily Hamlin

Once upon a time, in a Texas from the past,
Years and years ago, in the century before last.
When America was young

In time the land divided; a revolution started.
Terms were non-

As the sun dips behind the expansive fields,
The hogs finish their daily yields.
They hustle back from whence they came,
Knowing that of their land they've made their certain claim.

Third-Place Student Poem

"Whispers of East Texas"

By Kaden Groda

Beneath the canopy of pine trees tall,
Where sunlight dances, shadows fall,
East Texas whispers in the breeze,
A melody of tranquil ease.

The mornings draped in misty veils,
Soft as the whispering nightingale's tales,
Dew-kissed meadows, fresh and green,
Where nature paints a serene scene.

Fields of bluebonnets, wild and free,
Stretch like waves of a quiet sea,
While dogwoods bloom in soft array,
Heralding the dawn of a new day.

Cypress knees by quiet streams,
Reflect the sky in endless dreams,

And in the stillness, you can hear,

Under boots that seek the light.
From dawn to dusk, they tread the dust,
In the heat of the sun, their spirits ignite.

The cacti stand like silent guards,
Their thorns sharp, their beauty hard.
Where few dare to tread, they bloom so bright,
In deserts harsh, they show their might.

Rivers carve through stone, unyielding and true,
Flowing with purpose, a path they pursue.
They whisper of those that came before,
And carry the hopes of those who endure.

The stars above like lanterns gleam,
Guiding souls in the night's quiet stream.
A beacon of light, a map in the dark,
In the vast unknown, they leave their mark.

This is Texas, wild and free,
where dreams are forged in dust and glee.
A place where hearts beat loud and fierce,
With courage true, they persevere.

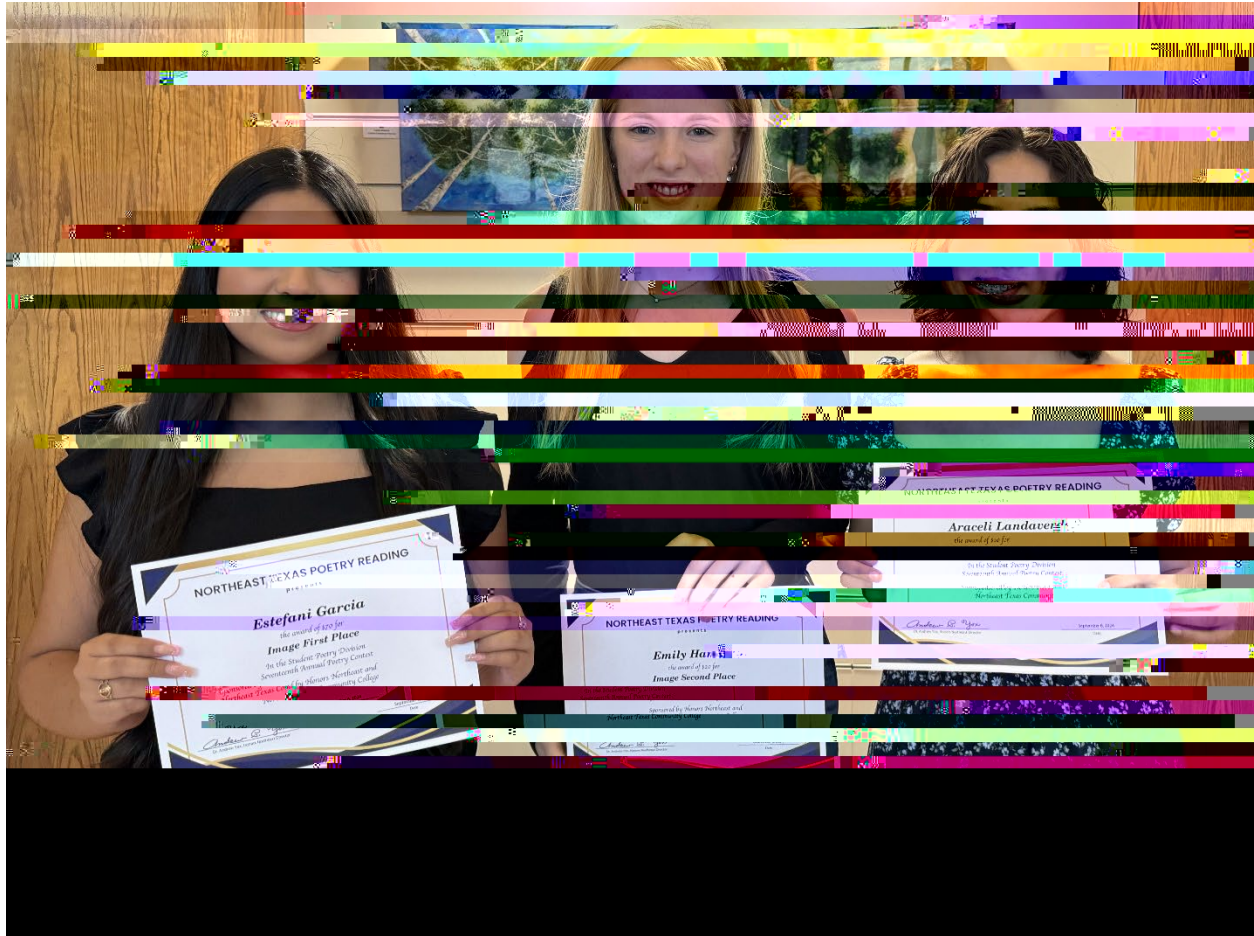


Image Winners: First—Estefani Garcia for \$70, Image of Bluebonnets shown above, Second—Emily Hamlin for \$20 for Mount Pleasant at Night, below, and Third—Araceli Landaverde for \$10 for

