

MVTHS students elected to Little Egypt District of Student Councils Board

By VANESSA WELCH

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MT. VERNON — Two Mt. Vernon Township High School sophomores have been elected to represent more than 15 high schools on the 2009-10 Little Egypt District of Student Councils Board.

Hannah Weber, MVTHS student council secretary of the class of 2011, and Clay Jackson, vice president of the class of 2011, were elected on the board as treasurer and vice president, respectively, during the annual LEDSC 2009 district convention last month. Both students said serving locally has helped with leadership and networking, which they look to further improve at the district level.

"I'm really honored to be on it," Weber said. "You learn lots of leadership skills and you meet a lot of people, too. It's good to know people and have connections for the future, too."

As part of the softball team, chorus, Youth and Government and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Weber said she originally decided to run for student council as a way to be fully involved with the school in an organization



Hannah Weber and Clay Jackson of Mt. Vernon Township High School spoke at the Little Egypt District of Student Councils 2009 District Convention in Benton last month. Both MVTHS sophomores were elected to serve on the LEDSC Board and said they look forward to enhancing their leadership skills and networking at the district level to bring new ideas back locally. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

many of her friends were also going to be members of. Jackson said he participated in student council in middle school and set goals to be elected for student council in high school and the LEDSC board. Jackson is also active with football, band, Youth and Government, National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"I've learned to become a better leader and become more involved all-around at

the high school," Jackson said. "I've gotten to know a lot more people at the school and district."

During the convention entitled, "Hats Off To Leadership," Weber, Jackson and other candidates were interviewed for the district board positions and gave speeches. Later, when all student council members voted, election results were announced and the new board members were installed. The



event also featured leadership speeches, dancing and music provided by the MVTHS Jazz Choir and Drumline, and the former district board also held a meeting. Weber said she led a discussion group regarding Homecoming Week and Jackson spoke about student council involvement.

"It's kind of an honor I would say," Jackson said. "Our family and friends are all very proud of us, so it's good to have that support at

home and around the town."

"One of the things I'm most proud of as a student council co-ordinator is the fact that we are involved not only at the local level but at the district and state levels as well," Jamey VanZandt said. "Networking experiences that students have at the district level enable them to lead more successfully. I'm always proud of what the Mt. Vernon Student Council is able to do. I think Hannah and Clay will

do a great job as treasurer and vice president."

Locally, MVTHS student council members plan and execute Homecoming and SpringFling activities each year, and they also attend meetings, leadership conferences and workshops. The students provide community service by working year-round with Angels on Assignment and with the Christmas for the Needy food baskets program. Baskets were distributed to about 600 families last Christmas.

VanZandt and Melanie Gulley serve as the organization's co-ordinators, and students currently involved with the MVTHS student council include Jeanette Odle, Lauren Donoho, Chance Tate, Colton Burge, Shelby Timm, Rachel Lee, Alicia Sheldon, Savannah Connaway, Victor Durham, Sarah Wagner, Cassy Austin, Connor Burge, Alex Frisby, Clay Jackson, Hannah Weber, Cameron Stewart, Cody Ferland, Alaina Reeves, David Lee, Tyler Flota, Daylea Conway, Gabe Habtemariam, Brooke Kujawa, Jessa Hawkins, Niki Patton, Erica Kirsch, Kenzi Tate, Paige Wallace, Emily Tackitt, Conner Lundius and Ryan Wellmaker.