

# GROVE GAZETTE

Vol. III, Issue 4

Union Grove JH/HS Newsletter

December 2021

## Bands to Perform Christmas Concert

### Taylor See

The sixth grade, junior high, and high school bands will host their annual Christmas concert and auction Dec. 2.

The sixth grade band will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the junior high and high school bands.

"The students will play in a very 'holly jolly' way, bringing Christmas cheer to everyone," director Andy Thompson said.

## LDE Aces Area FFA Group Heads to State

### Hunter Fraker

Emily Calhoun (12), Jeremiah McGee (10), Jessica Hobbs (11), and Will Wilson (10) earned a trip to Huntsville for the state FFA LDE public relations contest Dec. 3-6 when they placed second at the area contest at TSTC Marshall on Nov. 17.

Thursday, Dec. 2 at 2:45 p.m., cheerleaders will lead the LDE team through the hallways for other students to applaud and wish them luck in their state contest, which requires the team prepare and present a 5-8 minute program about FFA and what it represents, followed by a question-and-answer session.

In addition to the state-bound public relations team, Kenia Velazquez (11) placed seventh in Senior Spanish Creed Speaking at the area contest, and the Greenhand Chapter Conducting team of TJ Fowler (9), Porter Yohn (9), Abby Grace (9), Jacob Griffin (9), Madeline McGee (10), Rylee Aiken (9), Katherine Potter (10) and advisor Avery Brooks (12) placed eleventh.

## Varsity Basketball Teams Busy With Back-to-Back Tournaments

### STAFF

The boys' basketball team will play the Spring Hill/White Oak tournament Dec. 2-4 and the annual UG basketball tournament Dec. 16-18. Highly ranked teams such as Timpson and Garrison will compete. While district play doesn't begin until January, Coach Wilson has big expectations for this year's varsity team.

"I expect us to be a district title contender and to win the first playoff game," Wilson said.

The girls will play the McLeod tournament Dec. 2-4 and Gary's tournament Dec. 9-11.

The teams hosted their first pre-season basketball tournaments Nov. 18-20. The girls' varsity team succumbed to Pewitt in their Thursday game. The Lady Lions lost

35-39 but picked up 36 rebounds and 12 steals from Gracie Stanford (11), Macey Roberts (12) and Ava Wightman (10).

The boys beat All Saints Episcopal School 50-47 in their first game of the tournament with three-pointers from Colton Cowan (11), Jace Roberts (9), Cooper Vestal (11) and Hunter Cannon (12). The Lions also blocked four All Saints shots and grabbed 44 rebounds. The boys lost 80-27 against Avinger in their second Thursday game, despite big plays from Cannon, Cowan, Aubrey Woodard (12), Jaxon Daniels (10), Harlee Kirbis (12), and Trevor Moore (12).

Friday, the Lady Lions beat Ore City 52-8, and then the girls topped Grand Saline 47-24. Stanford led the game in three-pointers, and Wightman, Gracie Winn (11) and Stanford earned steals. The Lions played Quitman and All Saints Friday. UG lost 66-48 to Quitman despite steals from Woodard and Daniels and three-point shots from Cowan, Cannon, Roberts, and Vestal. All Saints capitalized on the teams' second meeting with a 51-43 win.



**PHOTOS: KIMBER SMITH** Colton Cowan (11) pushes through All Saints players to score a goal, and Gracie Stanford (11) shoots past a Pewitt defender Nov. 18.



# Band Members Aim For All-Region Seats

**Taylor See**

Junior high band students will compete in ATSSB All-Region auditions Dec. 3, starting at 4:30 p.m. on campus. High school auditions will take place Dec. 11 in New Boston, beginning at 9 a.m.

"I think that all the students will perform admirably and be very prepared," director Andy Thompson said.

Each student will play both fast and slow pieces, along with scales. Around 20 junior high students and around 15 high school students will try out for the band, although only high school students have the opportunity to advance to the area band.

"I think that everyone trying out for All-Region will perform really well and represent our school in a great way," senior Mia Rust said.

# Junior High UIL Teams Plan to Win School Cancelled Dec. 8 to Host District Academic Meet

**Sydney Pritchett and Olivia Hudgens**

Over 50 junior high UIL participants will compete in the district meet Dec. 8, an all-day event. Since UG is hosting, there will be no school that day.

Math and Oral Reading will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by Maps, Graphs, and Charts and Impromptu Speaking at 9:35. Dictionary Skills, Number Sense, Social Studies, Music Memory, and Modern Oratory begin at 10:40. Calculator Apps and Spelling start at 11:45, and Impromptu finals begin at 12:50, followed by Oral Reading finals, Science, Art, and Modern Oratory finals at 1:55. Listening Skills and Chess are the last contests of the day, beginning at 3 p.m.

Though Ready Writing and Editorial Writing participants wrote Dec. 1, judging for these events will also take place Dec. 8.

"I think that we will come out in the top three for editorial writing," eighth grader Natalie Pritchett said. "In practice, we have been going over papers and fixing the mistakes and writing papers together so that we can make minimum errors."

The One-Act Play cast and crew will perform Mandy Conner's "Lafayette No.1" at the Lion Center on December 15. The play follows a group of orphans called the Forgotten during the yellow fever epidemic of 1816 in New Orleans. Our students will perform second of the four schools competing.

"I personally believe that the play will go well and that we should leave the building the first place medalists," eighth-grader Parker Haley said.



PHOTO: KAREN CHAVEZ Coach Rhonda Baker advises the eighth-graders during their Overton game Nov. 30.

# MAPping Progress JH to Take Middle-of-Year Assessments

**Olivia Hudgens**

MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing will take place between December 13-17 for 7th and 8th graders.

MAP is a computerized, adaptive test that gauges STAAR readiness. The test can assess students' reading levels and tell if they are ready for the end-of-year math, reading, and science exams.

# JH Basketball to Face Beckville Bearcats

**Jaycie Mullins**

Junior high basketball boys play Beckville at home on Dec. 6th at 4:30 p.m., and the girls play in Beckville at 5:30 p.m.

"I'm super excited about this group," Coach Chad Halcomb said. "They play very hard, and they are really excited about this season. They have a great work ethic to go along with their energy, which makes for a fun group to coach."

The 7th grade boys won their Nov. 15

game against the Wildcats. The seventh grade girls beat Big Sandy 37-7, and the eighth grade won 10-8.

"[The girls] have been working really hard in practice and improving their basketball skills," Coach Rhonda Baker said. "As far as my expectations for the year, these young ladies will give 110% in every game, and each one will be a better ball player at the end of the season than when we started."



PHOTO: JAYCIE MULLINS Jim Bardwell from the Gladewater Mirror reached out to the Grove Gazette staff, offering to pay for coverage of UG events. Staff members began submitting photos and articles from the Lions' volleyball, foot-

ball, and cross-country seasons. Sophomore Faith Woodall received her first check Halloween weekend.

# Honor Society Inducts New Members

**Faith Woodall**

Twenty-one new members officially joined the National Honor Society during the Nov. 2 induction ceremony.

Aaron Amos (11), Mackenzie Arden (11), Josh Baker (11), Emily Bible (11), McKenzie Ellis (11), Caden Handorf (11), Carsyn Hudgens (11), Analeice Jones (11), Lainey Ledbetter (11), Jordan Lee (11), Stacy Leon-Ramos (11), Angelina Leyva (11), Kyler Littlejohn (11), Emily Lynch (11), Kadynce Matthew (12), Sumeet Mattu (11), Blake Moore (11), Brayden Pirtle (11), Gracie Stanford (11), Kenia Velazquez (11), and Gracie Winn (11) met the invitation criteria of maintaining a GPA of 90 or above and were approved by a council of teachers based upon scholarship, leadership, and character.

By joining, the students committed to completing eight hours of community service each school year and maintaining a GPA of 90 or above.

NHS officers Sydney Chamberlain (12), Avery Brooks (12), Jolea Robertson (12), Sabetay Fernandez (12), and Jocelyn Suarez (12) facilitated the ceremony.



**PHOTOS: FAITH WOODALL** Juniors Angelina Leyva and Emily Bible (below) complete the symbolic candle-lighting ceremony to officially join NHS.



# Shotgun Team Shoots for 100

**Sydney Pritchett**

The shotgun team competed in the Hooks FFA Trap Shoot Nov. 5 at Buffalo Creek Trap Club in Ben Wheeler, TX. Two teams competed: Jeremiah McGee (10), Colton Jamison (9), TJ Fowler (9), and Cason Cowan (9) and Cash Coleman (10), Rowan Moore (10), and Porter Yohn (9).

Each competitor shot four rounds of 25 for a maximum score of 100. Team scores were determined by adding the top three scores for each team, so teams of four dropped their lowest individual score.

The team will compete again Feb. 18-20 in the San Antonio Rodeo Junior Shoot-Out.

# Super Troopers: Mamma Mia! Review

**Faith Woodall**

Mrs. Spears's theater class performed their double-cast production of "Mamma Mia!" Nov. 14 and 15, and if you missed it, you missed out.

In my opinion, the group's choreography really brought the chemistry between Sophie and Sky to the surface, which left me hopeful they would stay together.

The "Does Your Mother Know?" duet between Hope Rogers/Emily Melton (12) as Tanya and Colton Mead (9) as Pepper was the highlight of my night, and the ruffled costumes and colorful decorations contributed to the play's chaos perfectly.

## Semester Exams Scheduled

Students must stay in the classroom for the duration of the exam time scheduled.

In order to exempt from exams, students must meet the designated criteria as of Dec. 9.

Students who do not attend their exam earn a zero.

### Freshman/Sophomore Criteria

Students must have a semester average of 80 or above and 0 absences, a semester average of 85 or above and three or less absences, or a semester average of 90 or above with four or less absences.

### Junior/Senior Criteria

Students must meet college readiness standards in addition to the freshman/sophomore criteria.

### Absences Explained

The following absences do not count against students' exemptions: school-related absences, partial-day absences excused by a doctor's note, two medical days, two documented college days, two funeral days (for immediate family), and two court days.

### Junior High High School

Wednesday Dec. 15	1ST P	7:50-8:36	1ST P	7:50-8:36
	2ND P	8:40-9:31	2ND P	8:40-9:31
	3RD P	9:35-10:21	3RD P	9:35-10:21
	4TH P	10:25-11:11	4TH P	10:25-11:11
	LUNCH	11:15-11:50	5TH P	11:15-12:01
	DEAL	11:55-12:55	LUNCH	12:01-12:55
	7TH P	1-2:15	7TH E	1-2:15
	8TH P	2:20-3:35	8TH E	2:20-3:35
Thursday Dec. 16	1ST P	7:50-8:36	1ST E	7:50-9:05
	2ND P	8:40-9:31	2ND P	9:10-9:20
	3RD P	9:35-10:21	3RD E	9:25-10:40
	4TH P	10:45-NOON	4TH E	10:45-NOON
	LUNCH	NOON-12:35	LUNCH	NOON-12:55
	DEAL	12:40-12:55		
	6TH P	1-2:15	5TH E	1-2:15
	DEAL	2:20-3:35	ACAD	2:20-3:35
Friday Dec. 17	2ND P	7:50-9:05	2ND E	7:50-9:05
	9TH P	9:10-10:25	9TH E	9:10-10:25
	DEAL	10:30-11:30	ACAD	10:30-11:30
	LUNCH	11:30-12:05	LUNCH	11:30-12:05

# Upcoming Events

**Dec. 1**  
**TSI Testing**

**Dec. 2**  
**Band Christmas Concert — 6 p.m.**



**PHOTO: KIMBER SMITH** Ava Wightman (10) and Bailey Clowers (12) race to get open for Macey Roberts's (12) pass from the baseline during the UG tournament Nov. 18.

**Dec. 2-4**  
**V Girls Basketball at McLeod Tournament**  
**V Boys Basketball at Spring Hill Tournament**

**Dec. 3**  
**JH All-Region Band Auditions — 4 p.m.**

**Dec. 3-6**  
**State FFA LDE Contest at Huntsville**

**Dec. 6**  
**JH Boys Basketball v. Beckville — 4:30 p.m.**  
**JH Girls Basketball at Beckville — 5 p.m.**  
**HS Girls Basketball at White Oak — 5 p.m.**



**PHOTO: KIMBER SMITH** Hunter Cannon scores on a jump-shot during the All Saints game Nov. 19.

**Dec. 7**  
**HS Boys Basketball v. Ore City — 5 p.m.**

**Dec. 8**  
**JH Academic UIL Meet**

**Dec. 9**  
**STAAR English II, Biology, Algebra I Retakes**

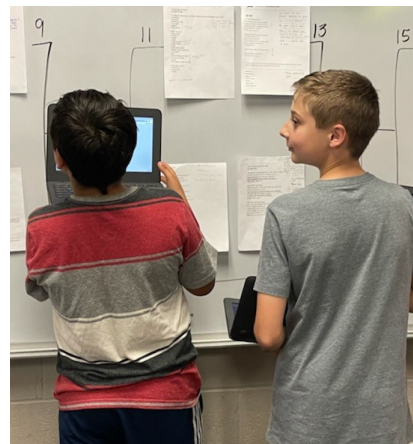
**Dec. 9-11**  
**V Girls Basketball at Gary Tournament**  
**FFA Greenhand Camp at Timberline Baptist**

The Lindale camp provides workshops, the opportunity to participate in a community service project to benefit Hangers of Hope, and a camp-wide dance. District and area officers are required to attend, and schools can send up to seven greenhands. Madeline McGee (10), Katherine Potter (10), Maddie Byers (9), Sam Stanley (9), TJ Fowler (9), Rylee Aiken (9), and Jacob Griffin (9) will represent our chapter.

**Dec. 10**  
**HS Boys Basketball at Quitman — 5 p.m.**

**Dec. 11**  
**HS All-Region Band Auditions at New Boston**

**Dec. 13**  
**JH Boys Basketball at Hawkins — 4:30 p.m.**  
**JH Girls Basketball v. Hawkins — 5 p.m.**  
**FFA Christmas Party — 6 p.m.**



**PHOTO: KIMBER SMITH** Seventh-graders Christian Bowling and Logan Walts vote in the ELA class's poetry analysis tournament the first week of November. Groups of students chose a famous poet, found and analyzed one of that poet's poems, and then voted on which group did the best analysis. Bailee Hosak, Eliana Vilamendez, and Kaci Pirtle won the competition with their analysis of "The Sermon of St. Francis" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

**Dec. 14**  
**HS Boys Basketball v. Queen City — 5 p.m.**

**Dec. 15**  
**JH One-Act Play Competition**

**Dec. 16-18**  
**HS Boys Basketball in UG Tournament**

**Dec. 17**  
**HS Girls Basketball v. Tyler Heat — 5 p.m.**

**Dec. 28**  
**HS Girls Basketball v. Queen City — Noon**  
**HS Boys Basketball v. Edgewood — 1 p.m.**

**Dec. 30**  
**V Girls Basketball v. Longview Heat — 11 a.m.**

**Dec. 31**  
**HS Girls Basketball v. Spring Hill — 11 a.m.**  
**HS Boys Basketball v. Spring Hill — 1 p.m.**