

Five GROVE GAZETTE

Vol. IV, Issue 1

Union Grove JH/HS News

October 2022



Fall
celebrations
Homecoming
Yamboree

Fall Sports
Highlights
Halloween
Movie Guide

Back to School Spirit



Right: Mrs. Vickie Collins dances down the aisle during staff introductions on the first day of school. Principal Rachel Evers brought staff members on-stage one at a time to introduce them to the students before the back-to-school assembly covering dress code changes, new security measures, and other pertinent information. On-stage, Coach J.B. Littlejohn wowed the crowd with his dance moves, and teachers welcomed their peers with high fives and applause.

Photos by Faith Woodall



Above: Freshman mascot Kaki Pharr enjoys the chance to “act wild and have fun while Protecting the Pride” during the away game. “Mascots create unity, and the pride that comes from this unity motivates and inspires us students to do our very best,” Pharr said.



Left: Freshman linebacker Carter Cooper takes down a Bishop Gorman Crusader, one of his six tackles in the Aug. 26 game. The Lions defeated the Crusaders 28-24 after senior Jaden Chavers scored three touchdowns, including an 80yd touchdown run. Quarterback Cooper Vestal (12) also scored a touchdown and two extra points, and kicker Luis Fernandez (9) pitched in two more extra points.

Photos by Daytona Vaughn

Right: Senior feature twirler Briyanna Blalock soaks in the crowd’s awed screams after her Aug. 26 pep-rally performance juggling three batons.



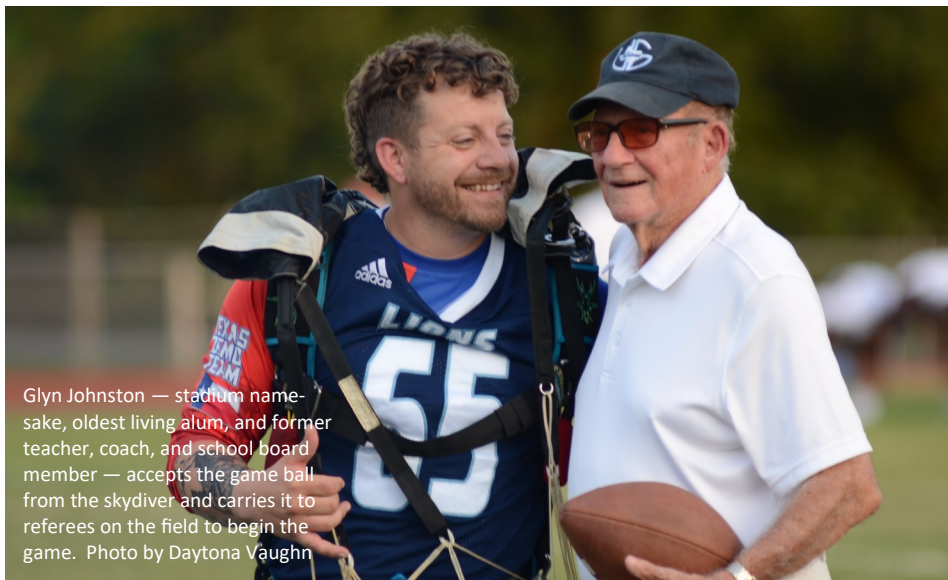
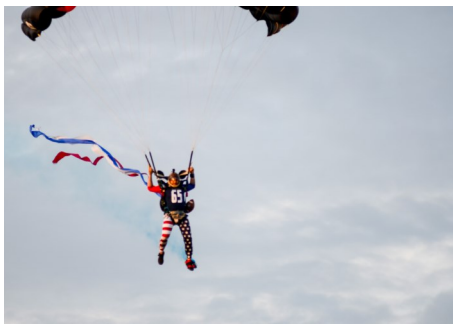
Far right: Lane Turner (11) pulls Porter Yohn (10) from the Hungry, Hungry Hippos game before he can salvage his score. Freshmen Karen Chavez and Garrett Staley (right) fought to win, but cheer captain Gracie Winn declared seniors Josh Baker and Gracie Stanford victorious.



Photos by Daytona Vaughn

Clockwise from right: A skydiver from Skydive East Texas drops in with the game ball. Quarterback Cooper Vestal (12) pitches the ball to Jaden Chavers. (12). Lions link arms during "Game Day" while team captains meet midfield. Aric Warnick (11) blocks a Cumby opponent. Senior Analeice Jones carries the flags for the US Army and US Navy. Colton Cowan (12) flexes his spirit muscles.

Photos by Jamie Russell and Daytona Vaughn



Glyn Johnston — stadium name-sake, oldest living alum, and former teacher, coach, and school board member — accepts the game ball from the skydiver and carries it to referees on the field to begin the game. Photo by Daytona Vaughn



Homecoming Heroics

Lions Defeat Trojans in Overtime

Jamie Russell and Daytona Vaughn

Skydiver-delivery of the game ball. Flag-carrying motorcyclists' accompaniment to the band's "Star-Spangled Banner". The crowning of golden queen Sumeet Mattu.

The Lions defeated Cumby's Trojans with flair in the Sept. 2 homecoming game. But at the end of the fourth quarter, the scoreboard read 12-12. The Lions chose to play defense, and Cumby took first possession.

"We wanted to play defense first so we would know what we had to do on offense," head coach Bobby Chadwick said. "When Jace [Roberts] got the interception, we knew we were in good shape. They didn't score on their possession, so we just had to score."

When the Lions took possession, Jaden Chavers (12) made it to the endzone, and the Lions won the night 18-12.

"It felt good because at that moment I

wasn't thinking about my real-world problems, I was thinking about football," Chavers said. "To get a win on my school's home field in front of my whole school and celebrating with my team after I get the winning touchdown is such a great feeling."

Chavers scored all three touchdowns and rushed a total of 174 yards for the night. Roberts (10) led the defense with 10 tackles, two interceptions, two caused-fumbles, and four pass deflections. Carter Cooper (9) added six tackles and one pass deflection, and Brayden Pirtle (11) and Aric Warnick (11) pitched in four tackles apiece. Kayden Day (10) scored four sacks and two tackles, and was named Defensive Player of the Week by the Longview News-Journal.

"I think our entire defense could have received this honor," Day said. "And for us to win in this night makes it special for the whole school."



"Since I'm not playing football this year, I like to support my boys by being the 'leader' of the student section," senior Colton Cowan said. "Since I've played before, I know that good energy coming from the stands boosts how you play."

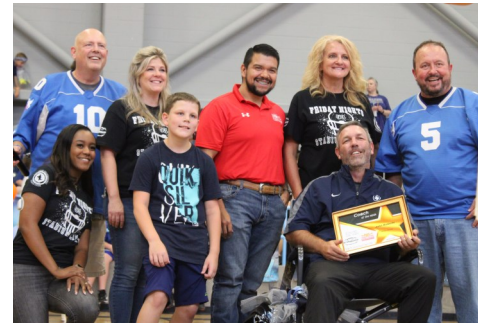


Above: Addison Manos (10), Emmalee Aaron (10), and Kaylean Raley (10) dress up for Movie Character Monday; Izzy Gregg (10), Briana Westmoreland (10), and Bailey Baird (10) rock out on Twin Tuesday; and Lily Hutton (8), Danica Vestal (8), Easton Head (7), Rachel Potter (8), Emma Diviney (8) and Bre Reynolds (8) celebrate Traffic Jam Thursday.

Photos by Jamie Russell and Emori Lemming.

Right: Junior high and high school cheerleaders perform together at the homecoming pep rally.

Photo by Daytona Vaughn



Above: Harlen the Sports Guy and Pigskin Bob name John Roberts the Coach of the Week. The pair also named Bethany Ledbetter Teacher of the Week and added several students to a growing list of scholarship candidates. FFA students ride behind Mrs. Stevens' tractor in the homecoming parade. Photos by Daytona Vaughn and Jamie Russell

Left: Princess Scarlett Edwards and Prince Case Orms join duchesses Natalie Woodard (9), Chloe Staley (12), Mackenzie Arden (12), Gracie Winn (12), Faith Woodall (11), and Meredith Morgan (10) around Queen Sumeet Mattu (12) for post-ceremony photographs with professional photographer Chris Jones. Photo by Jamie Russell

UIL Teams Jump into Action

Twenty-four members of the Speech and Debate, Journalism, Computer Science and Applications, Current Issues and Events, and Science teams attended the UIL Student Activities Conference at TJC on Saturday, Sept. 10 to learn more about their respective contests. Photo by Kimber Smith

Multiple speech and debate students went on to win awards at Sabine's Angel Tournament the following weekend. Brendon Fuller (12) won first place in informative speaking, followed by teammates Paulina Navarro-Gonzalez (10) in third and Kyler

Littlejohn (12) in fourth. Colton Mead (10) placed third in both Prose Interpretation and Persuasive Speaking, and Jamie Russell (10) earned sixth in Prose Interpretation. Partners Jeremiah McGee (11) and Fuller placed third in Cross-Examination debate, and Preston Woodall (12) placed fifth in LD debate. Shane Deaton (9), Hunter Rogers (9), Parker Haley (9), and Kendall Wennmohs (12) also competed.

UIL teams will compete next in Pine Tree's "Walk the Plank" fall speech and writing meet on Oct. 22 and Lindale's fall full-academic invitational Oct. 29.



Right: A representative from MileSplit interviews both the girls' varsity team after the Whitehouse meet. Photo by Daytona Vaughn



Preston Woodall (12) crosses the finish line at the Whitehouse meet Sept. 3. The runners traveled to Whitehouse Saturday, Sept. 3, where both varsity teams placed third overall. Will Wilson (11) came in 12th, Preston Woodall (12) 16th, Celson James (9) 18th, Lane Turner (11) 28th, Brendon Fuller (12) 30th, Isaiah O'Neal (11) 34th and Jaxson Daniels (11) 44th. Gracie Stanford (12) finished fifth, Sophie Pyle (11) 12th, Gracie Winn (12) 14th, Kenia Velazquez (12) 21st, Keira Taylor (10) 26th and Analeice Jones (12) 27th. Junior varsity runners Madyson Lowe (9) and Gracelyn Head (9) finished in 10th and 22nd, and Mason Stanley (9) finished 44th, Kenneth Flanagan (9) 49th and Josiah Sturkie (9) 74th. Easton Head (7) came in 22nd, Connor Stanford (7) 27th, Connor Mead (7) 37th and Jill Taylor (8) finished in 20th in the junior high division. Photo by Faith Woodall



Cross-Country Hits Stride at Hawkins Runners Ready for District

Faith Woodall

Both the junior high and high school cross-country teams will run their district meets at Hawkins on Oct. 5. High school runners, competing for spots in the regional meet at Huntsville Oct. 24, will run at 9 a.m., and junior high will compete at 3:30 p.m.

Varsity prepared with Hawkins's invitational Sept. 30. The girls' team won first overall with four girls in the top 25 of 148 runners, and Brendon Fuller (12) finished in the top third among 150 competitors.

Coach J.B. Littlejohn expects success after each of last year's teams won first or second place at district. This year's invitational success and that fact that the entire 2021 girls' Region III Championship team returned with plans for a threepeat performance, may foreshadow Littlejohn's eighth-consecutive trip to state.

At UG's annual invitational meet Saturday

Sept. 24, the varsity boys and girls both finished in fourth place overall, the junior high girls placed second, and the junior high boys took third. Seventeen schools participated in the meet. The varsity girls earned three medals with Gracie Stanford (12) placing 12th, Sophie Pyle (11) 14th, and Gracie Winn (12) earning 20th out of 74 total runners. The varsity boys earned two medals with Brendon Fuller (12) placing 16th and Isaiah O'Neal (11) 19th out of 64 runners. The junior high teams earned three medals with Landry Harris (7) in first place and Rachel Potter (8) in fourth out of 87 girls and David Shaver (8) placing eighth out of 64 boys.

"This meet was many of our runners' best times of the season," Littlejohn said. "And for our high school runners who we expect to advance to regional and state, we want to maintain consistent peak practice/performance over the next month."

Above: Senior Brendon Fuller recovers after finishing 35th in Gilmer's annual invitational on Saturday, August 27. Both the junior high girls' and boys' teams won first place overall in the Gilmer meet. Landry Harris (7) came in second, Rachel Potter (8) fifth, Danica Vestal (8) 17th, Jill Taylor (8) 36th, Averly Cook (8) 37th, Emma Wadle (7) 39th, Alana Cox (8) 68th, Bree Cox (7) 81st, and Rebekah (7) Downing 90th. Ryder (7) Martindale placed 10th, David Shaver (8) 12th, Kody Nutt (8) 14th, Hudson Wightman (8) 20th, Liam Mayhan (7) 34th, Connor Stanford (7) 37th, Easton Head (7) 46th, Kolby Nutt (8) 63rd, and Waylon Clift (7) 91st. Photos by Faith Woodall



Gracie Stanford (12) finishes seventh at the home meet Aug. 20. Union Grove hosted over 450 runners and 24 schools. "Our athletes did a fantastic job competing and representing our school," Coach J.B. Littlejohn said. Photo by Faith Woodall



Left: Senior Alison Yohn tips the ball back to Shelbyville during the home match Sept. 13. Yohn earned 10 kills, seven digs, and three aces, and the Lady Lions won 3-1 with scores of 23-25, 25-11, 25-14, and 25-23. Above: Senior Analeice Jones spikes a Brady Colby (11) set. Jones finished the game with a total of 12 kills, 15 digs, two aces, and three blocks, and Colby came out with four kills, six digs, two aces, and 40 assists. Taylor Campbell (10) earned 10 kills and four digs, and Sarah Prince (10) scored eight kills and three blocks. Photos by Faith Woodall



Above: Gracie Lawrence (10) passes the ball to setter Brady Colby. Lawrence earned 10 digs for the night. Photo by Faith Woodall



Yohn, Jones Queens of the Court in October Lady Lions to Celebrate Seniors

Jamie Russell and Faith Woodall

The Lady Lions will celebrate seniors Alison Yohn and Analeice Jones before the team's last home game Tuesday, Oct. 18 and finish district play Oct. 25 with an away game against Beckville. District matches began in September with away-game losses against Hawkins and Carlisle.

"When we started the [Carlisle] game, I had high hopes," Yohn said. "We have such good chemistry on our team, probably the best since coach Mackey has been a coach. I feel like we hustled and we tried hard, but in the end, we just did not win. I was just proud we tried our hardest."

The season hasn't played out how the

Lady Lions expected, but the girls hope to finish the season strong, especially Yohn and Jones who are playing their final season.

Jones said she has enjoyed "watching the growth and different skills [her] teammates bring to the team" and she's not ready to give up.

"Throughout my time on the team, I have learned to not let the thought of not being good enough stop you from playing," Jones said. She expects her team to "finally realize our potential and put it to use."

JH Starts Season With Key Wins

Junior Staff

Junior high athletes kicked off district games with big wins. The football boys, coached by Hunter Gray, Jerry Croley, and Kris Kelley, defeated Linden Kildare 18-8 on Sept. 15.

"The JH athletes have constantly been improving over the past three games," Kelley said. "Even though they have experienced both wins and losses, their positive attitudes and desire to play football has had a positive impact on the team."

Volleyball started the season off with multiple victories, including eighth grade's defeat of their rival Hawkins on their home turf and the seventh grade win over Carlisle and consolation in the Hawkins tournament.

"[The] Hawkins tournament was good. We started out a little rough, but I believe it was due to nerves," Coach Julie Martindale said. "We got into a groove with the second and third game and ended up Consolation Champs for the tournament."

Martindale said most of the seventh graders are successfully serving the ball over the net, and she and Park are teaching the girls about the rotations and positions they'll need to play high school ball.

"We are working with setters, hitters, blockers, back row, front row," Martindale said. "It's been fun teaching them these things that will only help them catch on quicker at the high school level."

The football team will play three games in October and finish their season Nov. 3 at Beckville. Volleyball season wraps up Oct. 24 with a home game against Beckville.



Charlotte Wright (7) tumbles across the court during the Sept. 8 junior high pep rally—the first of the year—before the football team's home game against Cushing. Photo by Kadence Frey

Out Fishing

Anglers Aim For Big Catch, State Tourney

The fishing team, which grew from 10 student anglers last year —five pairs who each advanced to the regional tournament— to 20 students this year, will compete at Lake Palestine Oct. 22

“Student interest in the fishing team and community support has been unbelievable,” sponsor Tracy Griffin said.

The team’s ultimate goal is the Texas High School Bass Association state tournament on Lake Sam Rayburn in May.

“We have some experienced teams returning this year,” Griffin said. “In addition, we have several other new teams that have high expectations of making the THSBA Regional Tournament and then qualifying for the state tournament.”



Fishing team meets for a photo Sept. 21. Photo by Kimber Smith



Cason Cowan (10) and Jacob Griffin (10) weigh in at the Lake Bob Sandlin tournament on Sept. 24. The team competed against 36 other schools.



Six pairs from the team weighed in catches, including Carson Bogue (11) and Reed Cooper (12). Photos by Tracy Griffin



Fellowship of Christian Athletes member Jaxson Daniels (11) shares a Bible verse during See You at the Pole on Sept. 28. Gracie Winn (12), Will Wilson (11), Rylan Roberts (10), Owen Matthew (11), Makynlie Young (9) and Jamie Russell (10) also presented Bible verses, prayers, information about the event’s history, and words of gratitude during the event. “To me, it’s just great to see kids get out of their comfort zone and speak the word of Christ with their peers,” FCA sponsor Chad Halcumb said. “See You at the Pole is really important because it is nationwide, it’s not just one district, one city, one town. I think the world needs a lot more days like that.” Photo by Emori Lemming

Sweet Potato Celebration Yamboree Offers Activities for All

CreeAnn Bozarth and Nick Scavone

The 53rd annual Yamboree spans October 19 to 22, when students will participate in a variety of activities, including agriculture shows, the queen's court, parades, and marching band events.

The agricultural livestock show will include junior breeding heifer, steer, hog, goat, broiler and rabbit shows. Students present their livestock to be judged on certain traits related to their breed standard. The winners of a show usually earn a money prize.

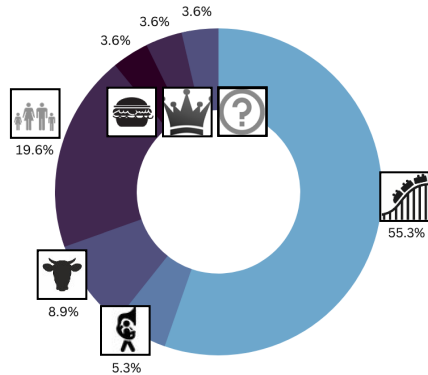
"Before I show, I'm pretty nervous," Bre Reynolds (8) said. "I have a good relationship with my pigs most of the time. They're nice, but I'm happy when they're sold because I'm finally making a profit off the pigs that I worked so hard for. I know it sounds bad, but it's true."

Yamboree duchesses Lainey Ledbetter (12) and Briyanna Blalock (12) will attend the coronation at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, and after the crowning ceremony several students will attend the Queen's Ball. Ledbetter, Blalock and other duchesses, chosen by Gilmer-area clubs, will also be in the Queen's Parade on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 11 a.m.

"At first I was really, really nervous about being chosen since I don't look like most girls," Blalock said. "But now I'm really excited to be able to experience that before I graduate."

Blalock will also help lead the band in the Yamboree Parade at 11 a.m. and marching contest from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 22.

"The parade is definitely a challenge, especially for beginners," drum major Sarah Clowers said. "We have a great drill, and I'm confident that our performance will be amazing."



Our survey found that junior high students prefer the fair to other aspects of the Yamboree, but some students have never even been to the event.



Drum Major Sarah Clowers leads the march during halftime of the Sept. 16 game against Linden-Kildare. The band will compete in the Yamboree marching contest Oct. 22 and the UIL Marching Contest at Mt. Pleasant Oct. 11. Photo by Daytona Vaughn

Spooky Selections Now Streaming

Emma Holder

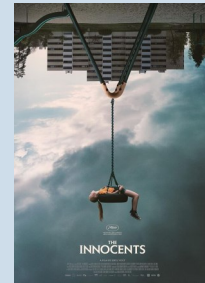
You Won't Be Alone (Rated R)



More disturbing than scary, this film is an artistic and heavily detailed story about what it means to be alive through the eyes of a socially inept 16 year old who's been shrouded from any human contact. The satisfying ending is not for the faint of heart unlike the other two options.

93% Fresh — Rotten Tomatoes

The Innocents (Not Rated)



A horror movie where the true horror can be found in how real it is despite its supernatural elements. This film gives the most realistic adaption of childhood naivety

I've seen. The main cast of Norwegian child stars make the movie a treat to watch for anyone just starting off in the genre.

97% Fresh — Rotten Tomatoes

Hellbender (Not Rated)



This film has a small cast and lore that spans generations. After watching a sweet girl find the truth in her twisted heritage with a well-intentioned but overprotective

mother who has kept her from the rest of the world, viewers will wish the movie continued.

97% Fresh — Rotten Tomatoes

Texas Schools' Response to Uvalde Tragedy Misses Key Component

Safety Measures Secondary to Mental Health Care

Casey Bogue

Locked doors, additional resource officers, and extra duties for teachers are just a few of the new security measures districts are taking after the Uvalde shooting rocked Texas schools. But heightened security does not target the underlying cause or cyclical effect of school shootings.

It should be no surprise that, as a result of the May 24 shooting of Robb Elementary School and similar worldwide events, adolescents may form depressive, anxiety, and panic symptoms. This depression and anxiety must be acknowledged by schools and addressed appropriately as soon as possible to avoid negative effects on students' school performance and — more importantly— physical safety.

A Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics study found that “diagnosed depression was associated with a 0.49 point, or half a letter grade, decrease in

student GPA,” indicating depression can cause diminished academic performance.

More significantly, the British Medical Bulletin reported that “the most significant predisposing factors [to suicide] are depressive disorder, previous attempts, antisocial behaviour” indicating that as depression and/or anxiety rise, self-harm and suicide do, too. Furthermore, depression is often cited as one of the many possible causes of school shootings. Therefore, attention to and improvement of students' mental health may lead to a positive feedback loop of fewer school shootings in the future.

To address these issues, the school should set up a safe environment by educating staff, parents, and students on the common symptoms of mental disorders; encouragement of positive behaviors and coping mechanisms; and recognition of the adverse effects of mood, depressive,

anxiety, and other disorders; their possible outcomes on grades and on other students; and the possibility of school causing or worsening stress, anxiety, and depression through an optional class or regular meeting for those who wish for greater mental health, providing confidentiality when so desired.





Mrs. Jill Winn and eighth-grade math students Hailey Griffin, Bre Reynolds, David Shaver, and Parker Johnston wear maroon to support Uvalde ISD, who returned to school Sept. 6. Photo by CreeAnn Bozarth


THE STATISTICS OF SCHOOL SHOOTINGS.


 Over 100,000 American children attended a school where a shooting took place in 2018 - 2019.

 Student enrollment and test scores decline severely after a school shooting.

 Surviving victims of gun violence are more likely to take antidepressants.

 Student absenteeism and the likelihood of needing to repeat a grade also heavily increases.

 Victims are also less likely to get jobs and more likely to work lower-paying jobs.

 At least 185 people have died via gun violence at American schools since the Columbine Massacre in 1999.

WHAT TO DO?

Talk to an adult if you or someone you know might harm themselves or someone else.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline — Call or text 988 for 24-hour, confidential support from a trained crisis counselor.

Crisis Text Line
Text “HELLO” to 741741 for 24-hour access to speak with a crisis counselor.



GROVE GAZETTE

The Grove Gazette is published by the journalism team of Union Grove High School at 11220 Union Grove Rd., Gladewater, TX 75647.

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Upcoming Events

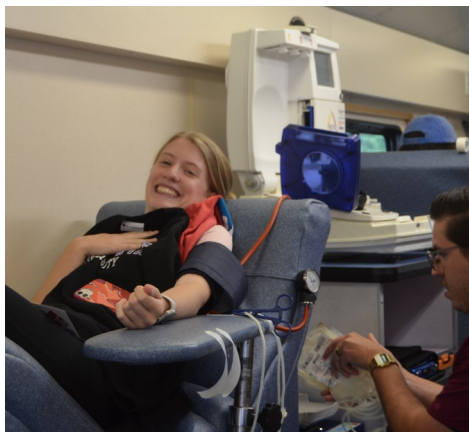
Oct. 1
JH/HS Cross Country Meet @Mt. Pleasant

Oct. 3
JH Volleyball @Overton — 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 4
JV/V Volleyball @Big Sandy — 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 5
District Cross-Country @Hawkins

Oct. 6
JH/JV Football v. Harleton — 5 p.m.



Senior Carsyn Hudgens donates blood during the Carter Bloodcare drive Sept. 20. This was Hudgens's third donation. She gave twice last year to earn her sister, Olivia, a red graduation cord. "I love donating and having the opportunity to help others," Hudgens said. Photo by Daytona Vaughn

Oct. 7
Country v. Country Club Dress-Up Day
V Volleyball v. Beckville — 4:30 p.m.
V Football @Harleton — 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 11
UIL Marching Contest @Mt. Pleasant — 1

The high school band will compete against 12 other schools including Big Sandy, Ore City, and Hawkins in the Region 4 marching contest at Sam Parker Field. Military bands that earn a 1 at regionals advance to state.

JV/V Volleyball v. Hawkins — 4:30 p.m.

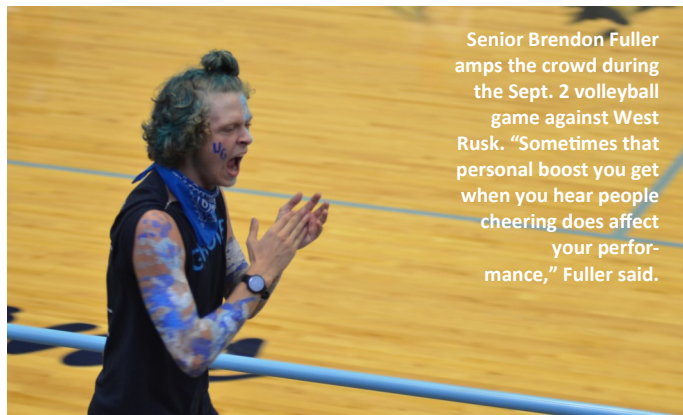
Oct. 13
UT Tyler Application Drive — 9:45 a.m.

UT Tyler will waive the \$60 application fee for seniors who submit applications to the Tyler campus during this meeting in the library. A representative from the college will be present to assist students with applications.

Oct. 14
V Volleyball @Carlisle — 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 17
JH Volleyball @Big Sandy — 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 18
JV/V Volleyball v. Overton — 4:30 p.m.



Senior Brendon Fuller amps the crowd during the Sept. 2 volleyball game against West Rusk. "Sometimes that personal boost you get when you hear people cheering does affect your performance," Fuller said.

Oct. 19-22
Yamboree

Oct. 20
Pink-Out Dress-Up Day
V Volleyball v. Big Sandy — 4:30 p.m.
V Football v. Big Sandy — 7 p.m.

Oct. 24
Regional Cross-Country Meet @Huntsville
JH Volleyball v. Beckville — 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 25
JH Band Fall Concert — 6 p.m.

"We will be playing some spooky tunes featuring different sections throughout the JH band, as well as a couple of marches to show off some style and military pride," band director Jonathan Stafford said. "The students will be dressed up in different Halloween costumes so it will also be a sight to see."

JV/V Volleyball @Beckville — 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 25-29
Harvest Festival Livestock Show

FFA students' will compete with their Ag mechanics and cattle, goat, lamb, poultry, rabbit and swine projects in Longview for first through eighth place ribbons and various titles before Saturday's auction at 6 p.m.

Oct. 27
JH/JV Football v. Hawkins — 5 p.m.

Oct. 28
Neon/Glow-in-the-Dark Dress-Up Day
Picture Retakes (First Period Only)
V Football @Hawkins — 7:30 p.m.



Above: When the cafeteria staff was shorthanded Sept. 16, Principal Rachel Evers stepped in to serve pizza and fries to hungry students. Photo by Arianna Gibboney Left: Joey Adams (10) and Will Driggers (10) prepare a spicy egg dish in Culinary Arts. Photo by Jamie Russell