

The GROVE GAZETTE

Vol. IV, Issue 3

Union Grove JH/HS News

December 2022



What is?
MORP

Basketball Season Begins
FFA to Compete in State LDEs

School Board
Election Results
**NHS Inducts
20 Juniors**

Behind the SCENES

Cover: Junior high and high school cheerleaders work together to honor veterans with their performance to "God Bless the USA". "It was a nerve-wracking but exciting experience with a new crowd of people and more eyes," freshman cheerleader Natalie Woodard said. "Afterward, I felt pretty good. The stunts hit, and everyone felt confident about their performance."

Photo by Emma Holder

Right: Culinary Arts students prepare meals for the Veterans' Day program Nov. 11. Photo by Emma Holder

Below: Veterans enjoy the Culinary Arts students' efforts after the program, which band, theater, cheer, National Honor Society and Student Council members helped put on. Photos by Jamie Russell Mrs. Terri Woodfin setup the Missing Man table in the cafeteria to pay tribute to the service members who never returned. Matthew Gipson (11) walks the Navy flag across the stage during "Veterans' Salute" Photos by Emma Holder



Feeding Heroes Culinary Arts Serves Veterans

Emma Holder

While band, theater, cheer, and FFA students honored veterans with their on-stage performances, the culinary arts students, overseen by teacher Tamara Merritt, prepared lunch for the veterans, their families and the faculty that made the program possible.

"I love it, it's motivational, having the students help with the food and organization," Merritt said.

From intro to advanced culinary, everyone played a role, working together to prepare roux for and assemble enchiladas, make Mexican/Spanish rice and refried beans for 200 people, bake desserts, serve the food, wash dishes, and haul everything from culinary to the cafeteria and back.

"We all stepped in wherever we could and helped out," junior Paulina Navarro-Gonzalez said. "When I messed up [the rice], my homies stepped up to fix it be-

fore we served."

The culinary students also learned to work with the veterans. According to sophomore Emmalee Aaron, the students had to be assertive with a few vets.

"Some veterans would grab the food with their bare hands, though being instructed to use tongs or the main rule, be served by the servers," Aaron said. "Serving them made me learn hospitality and communication skills."

Navarro-Gonzalez said the responsibility and scale of this project was "a little bit stressful" but absolutely worth it.

"We didn't think we could do it, but we came together and enjoyed it," Navarro-Gonzalez said. "Just seeing [the veterans] and being able to serve the people who served our country, and for them to be able to enjoy our food was so fulfilling. I'm grateful to be able to be part of it."



Graphic by Emma Holder



Juniors Weigh-In at Lake o' the Pines

Staff

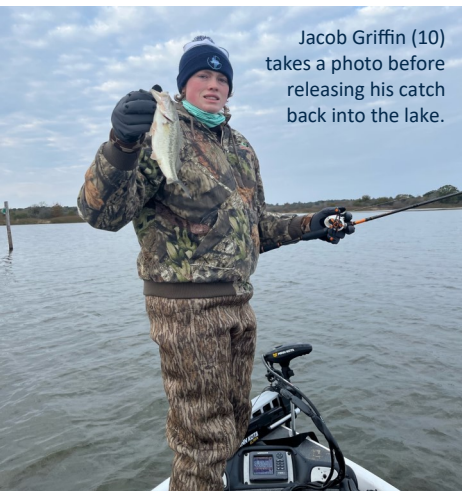
The fishing team competed among anglers from 30 different schools at the Lake o' the Pines tournament Nov. 19. Will Wilson (11) and Cade Sullivan (11) weighed in two fish, scoring 38th place among 175 angler pairs. The tournament was rescheduled from October due to bad weather, but the teams still had to bundle up to protect themselves from the chill while casting their lures.

"With the weather dropping from 60ish days to 42, me and Cade knew it was going to be slow fishing and the fish weren't really looking to eat that day," Wilson said. "Only catching two fish, me and Cade were kinda disappointed, but after looking around weigh-in and seeing other people also struggled, we were alright with how we did being that tough of a tournament."

The team will compete again on Dec. 10 on Lake Palestine.



Photos by Tracy Griffin



Jacob Griffin (10) takes a photo before releasing his catch back into the lake.



School Board Bids Farewell To Long-Term Servants Chambliss, Norris, Inducts New Members after Nov. Election

Staff

Tears flowed at the Nov. 14 school board meeting, when Kelly Chambliss and Bennie Norris stepped down from long-time positions and remaining board members honored their service with heartfelt speeches, shared stories, and gifts.

"Union Grove ISD has been blessed with exceptional school board members for many years," Superintendent Kelly Moore. "Bennie Norris & Kelly Chambliss are no exception, and both have played major roles in the success of our district. I appreciate their dedication, service, and leadership to our students, staff, and district.

Chambliss served 12 years but did not run for reelection. Karey Barbee won Trustee Place 1 with 583 votes to John Cannon's 444 votes, Justin Smith ran unopposed for Place 2, and Tim Turner won reelection to Place 4 over Robert Campbell and Edward Ledbetter with 687 votes. Norris served 17.5 years until Brian Cox won Trustee Place 5 with 525 votes to Norris's 493. Barbee and Cox officially joined the board at the November meeting, when president Jody Day presented the pair with their Certification of Election and they recited their Oath of Office.

The board also elected officers and recognized the recent success of the band and cross country teams who competed in state contests, as well as the monthly Lions of the Month and Star Staff awards.



Above: School Board President Jody Day embraces Kelly Chambliss, who vacated Trustee Place 1 after serving 12 years in the position, as Superintendent Kelly Moore hugs Bennie Norris, who lost the race for Place 5. Day officially welcomes new member Brian Cox, father of Alana (8) and Bree (7) Cox, to the board. Photos by Kimber Smith

Creo en el Porvenir de la Agricultura

FFA Students Advance to State, Greenhand Camp

Lucky Woodard

Thomas Navarro-Gonzalez (9) and Kenia Velazquez (12), as well as the first-place Public Relations team of Emily Bible (12), Jeremiah McGee (11), Madeline McGee (11), and Will Wilson (11), will compete in state LDE contests Dec. 2-3 after winning their area contests Nov. 16.

"We worked really hard for the past few months," Jeremiah said. "Even though we encountered hard situations when presenting, we were steadfast and did our best to make it at state. I feel state will go good because of how much we've accomplished this year with the leadership skills and speaking abilities we have gained."

Navarro-Gonzalez won first place in Greenhand Spanish Creed, and Velazquez won second in Senior Spanish Creed. In the Creed contests, students must recite the creed without error and respond orally during a five-minute question-and-answer period.

"If I miss, if I don't answer right, I'm kind of nervous about that," Navarro-Gonzalez

said. "I'm scared that if I mess up, I won't be able to make it to finals, and if I don't make it to finals it's going to be awful feeling. I feel hyped, though. I won first in district, first in area. Let's get first in state."

Freshmen Garrett Staley, Carter Cooper, Ayden Johns, Chloe Brooks, Kaki Pharr, Calab Day, and Mallorie Cannon will attend Greenhand Camp at Timberline Baptist Dec. 9-11 where they will attend various sessions to learn more about FFA and participate in a community service project collecting children's items for Love Them More Ministries in



Kenia Velazquez (12) and Thomas Navarro-Gonzalez (9) perform FFA creeds during the LDE Showcase Nov. 14. Photo by Hannah Haggard

Hallsville.

"We are going to the Greenhand camp to meet new friends and fellow Greenhands of other chapters around our school," Cooper said. "We will be doing workshops and participating in fun games. There will even be a dance at the end."

JOIN US FOR

MORP

INFORMAL DANCE AND XMAS TOY DRIVE

DECEMBER 3RD 7:00-10:00
IN THE JH GYM
UG HS ONLY
ENTRY FEE:
ONE TOY
THEME: 90S GRUNGE

GAMES, PHOTO BOOTH, FOOD, AND FUN

RSVP BY SCANNING ->

A Christmas Toy Story

STUCO Dance to Benefit Children

Faith Woodall

The Student Council will host a MORP dance and toy drive in the junior high gym Dec. 3 from 7-10 p.m. The theme for the dance is 90's grunge, and to enter, students must donate an unused toy.

Student Council president Kyler Littlejohn said reading that 1 in 5 kids will go without Christmas this year "struck a chord with [her]", and she wanted to help.

"I think that part of the Christmas spirit is not only receiving gifts but also learning to have a compassionate heart and give," Student Council president Kyler Littlejohn said. "I knew that the Student Council at UG was the perfect vehicle to come together and host a toy drive."

She found inspiration from her dad, Coach J.B. Littlejohn, after he shared his MORP experience.

"When he was in high school in the early 90s, they did a MORP Christmas dance, and he thought that would be something that we would like to do, too," Kyler said. "For everyone wondering why there was a 90s theme, that's why! Also the point [of MORP] is to dress down instead of being in formal wear."

The dance will include games, music, food, pictures, and a drawing for gift cards donated by local businesses.

"MORP is a way to give Christmas to kids in our community and also celebrate the accomplishments of our UG Student Council," Kyler said. "MORP really sums up what the spirit of Christmas is supposed to be: a time in which people set aside their differences and come together to give, receive, and celebrate!"

Need Toy Ideas?

- Action Figure
- Arts & Crafts
- Baby Doll
- Barbie
- Board Game
- Bouncy Ball
- Card Game
- Coloring Book
- Early Development Toys
- Hot Wheels
- Nerf Supplies
- Play-Doh
- Pop-It
- Puzzle
- Silly Putty
- Skateboard
- Sporting Goods
- STEM toys
- Stuffed Animal



NHS Vice President Angelina Leyva (12) lights the service candle, one of four candles representing the four core values of the organization, before inductees ignite their own service in the organization. Photo by Jamie Russell

Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character NHS Inducts 20 New Members

Jamie Russell

UG's chapter of the National Honors Society inducted 20 new members on Thursday, Nov. 3. Juniors Brayden Carter, Sarah Clowers, Jaxson Daniels, Esmeralda Escobedo, Katy King, Owen Matthew, Eliiah Parham, Paige Parman, Sydney Pritchett, Sophie Pyle, Keeley Rust, Jenna Scott, Addison Smith, Colton Taylor, Kameron Townsend, Lane Turner, Ava Wightman, Rowdy Williams, Faith Woodall, and Grace Woodall officially joined the organization Nov. 3.

"Being inducted into NHS has always been a goal of mine," junior inductee Faith Woodall said. "Year after year, I watch the graduates walk across the stage with a stylish, white NHS sash as I reflect on all of the contributions those students made to the community. I am beyond honored to get the opportunity to do the same."

To be invited to join NHS, students must have a 90+ cumulative grade point average and commit to doing eight hours of community service over the course of the year.

"I like kids to do the community service hours because that kind of shows them what they may be interested in when they become older," NHS sponsor Rhonda Wilcox said. "Maybe as an adult you will continue to do those kinds of things because you find out you have an interest in those areas."

NHS not only encourages students to serve after they graduate, but it also signifies a heart for service and community to future employers, colleges and scholarship donors and provides students the opportunity to build leadership skills. This year, NHS members elected seniors Gracie Winn president, Angelina Leyva vice president, Sumeet Mattu secretary, Caden Handorf treasurer, and Gracie Stanford historian.

"I am honored to have this position," Winn said. "I wanted to be any officer for our chapter just to be a part of the ideas and decision making process for our fundraising. I enjoyed inducting our new members and cannot wait for their amazing journey this program will provide for them."

Band Places Fourth In State Contest

Daytona Vaughn

The band competed in their seventh state military marching championship Nov. 1 at Baylor's McClane Stadium in Waco, Texas. In the preliminary round, the band competed against 10 other schools, scoring high enough to advance to the finals, where they competed against the other four top-five schools. The band ultimately placed fourth among the best 2A military bands in the state.

"Our band achieved all our goals and had two flawless performances, once in prelims and once in finals," Thompson said. "I could not be more proud."

To prepare, band members worked on small details, building the endurance to do two full performances in one day, and what director Andy Thompson called "constant repetition and daily reminders of how to fix our weaknesses". But as prepared as they were, senior soloist Carsyn Hudgens was "definitely nervous".

"Right before prelims, I got in my head and didn't perform to the best of my ability," Hudgens said. "I had a clearer head going into finals. My final performance was one of the best I've ever played that solo."

The band's 12 seniors celebrated another milestone Nov. 3, when they performed their last march of the season on senior night. When they graduate, the band will be very different, as will their opportunities.

"Currently, this is the only UIL event to alternate years," Thompson said, "There are possible changes coming in the future for every band to become eligible every year to advance to the state contest."



The band marches during halftime of the Nov. 3 home game against Beckville. Photo by Daytona Vaughn

Cross Country Runs State Meet

The Lady Lions cross country team competed at the state meet Nov. 4 in Round Rock and placed 16th among all 2A teams. This was the Lady Lions' third consecutive year to earn a spot at the state meet, a new school record. "Going to state three years in a row is unbelievable," senior Gracie Stanford said. "Early morning practices are draining, long runs are hard, and the races are nerve-racking, but if I could turn around and go through another four years just to experience the impact of the sport a million times then I would do it every time." Stanford placed 75th individually, followed by teammate Sophie Pyle in 90th, Kenia Velazquez in 129th, Keira Taylor in 131st, Analeice Jones in 139th, Jenna Scott in 147th, and Madyson Lowe in 148th. Photo by J.B. Littlejohn



Junior high One-Act Play cast and crew wait on results Nov. 30. Photo by Kimber Smith

Tradition of Excellence JH to Compete in UIL Academics

Staff

The junior high will host the majority of their district academic UIL events on Dec. 7. Students will compete in Mathematics, Oral Reading, Maps/Graphs/Charts, Impromptu Speaking, Dictionary Skills, Number Sense, and Music Memory in the morning, followed by Calculator Applications, Spelling, Science, Art Memory, Listening Skills, and Chess in the afternoon.

The writing teams will compete ahead of the Dec. 7 meet 1 in order to deliver papers to the judges as soon as the meet begins. Students already won the One-Act Play competition on Nov. 30, beating runner-up McLeod's "Charlotte's Web" and

third place team Big Sandy's "Lafayette No. 1" and gaining a tenth consecutive district championship. Jill Taylor (8) and Konner Long (7) won Top Performer awards, Briana Bowling (7) All-Star Cast, Miley Nono (8) Honorable Mention All-Star Cast, and Bella Foster (7) and Danica Vestal (8) Honor Crew.

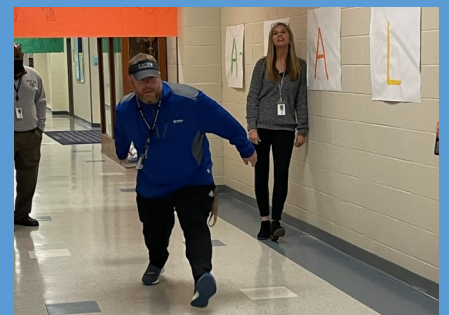
"One-Act Play is fun and nerve-wracking," Bowling said. "Everyone was telling me that I was so good and that I would win an award, but I knew what I did wrong. So I didn't think I would win. But [winning] is the best feeling."



Ora Celeste (11) completes an outdoor lab assignment for eighth period physics class. Students shot Nerf guns to time and calculate velocity. Photo by Jamie Russell



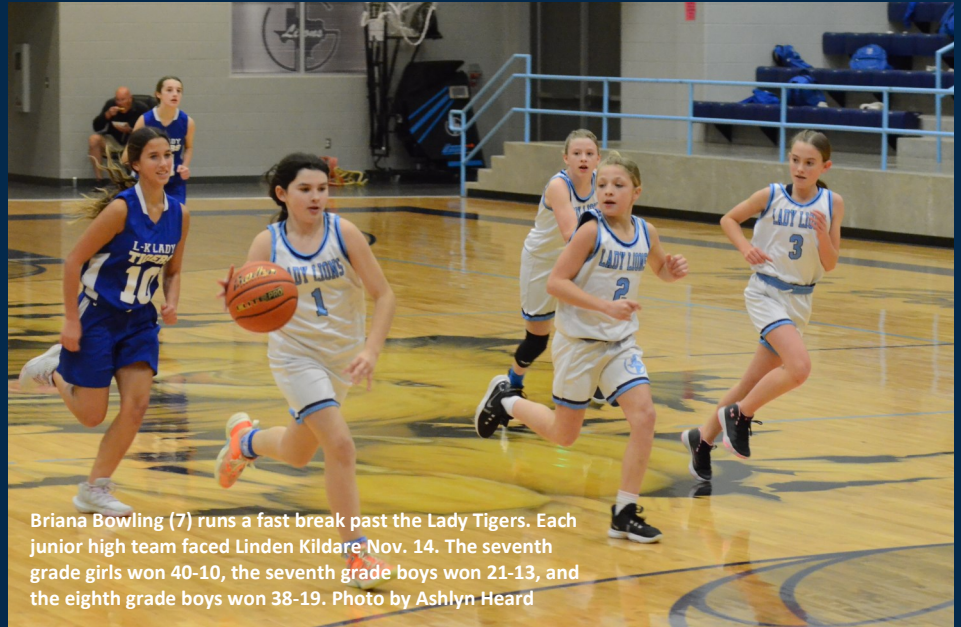
Seventh-graders Calvin Carr, Waylon Clift, Layla Kirk and Emma Wadle win Mrs. Smith's poetry analysis tournament. Photo by Kimber Smith



Coach Justin Charrier hurls a frozen turkey down the hallway during Principal Rachel Evers's Turkey Bowl Nov. 16. Photo by Kimber Smith

Basketball

Season Begins



Briana Bowling (7) runs a fast break past the Lady Tigers. Each junior high team faced Linden Kildare Nov. 14. The seventh grade girls won 40-10, the seventh grade boys won 21-13, and the eighth grade boys won 38-19. Photo by Ashlyn Heard

Above: Gracie Stanford (12) shoots a three during the varsity girls' Nov. 29 game against New Diana. Andrew Jacobus (10) calls a play during the JV game against Avery Nov. 17. Photos by Jamie Russell

Right: Jace Roberts (10) jumps to begin the varsity boys' first game in the home tournament Nov. 17-19. Colton Cowan (12) takes the ball downcourt for the Lions in the 53-13 varsity win against Detroit. Photos by CreeAnn Bozarth



Left: Wrigley Roberts (9) keeps the ball away from his Avery guard during the JV boys' game Nov. 17. Mallorie Cannon (9) prepares to pass to Kaki Pharr (9) during the JV Lady Lions' game against Leverett's Chapel during the Nov. 17-19 home tournament. The girls won the game 44-7 then defeated Union Hill 32-4. Photos by Jamie Russell

Football Season Ends With Hope for Future

Jamie Russell

The Lions played their final game of the season against the Beckville Bearcats on Nov. 3.

During the annual pre-game ceremony, the crowd celebrated each of the senior football players, cheerleaders, band members, and cross country team members not attending the state meet.

Once the game began, Jace Roberts (10) completed three of seven pass attempts, including passes to Carson Shott (12) and Rylan Roberts (11) that ended in touchdowns for the Lions. Jace also rushed for a touchdown, as did teammate Jesse Fulmer (10), and Luis Fernandez (9) kicked four extra points with 100% accuracy.

Considering the contributions of freshmen and sophomores to this year's team, Fernandez thinks the boys "could have a pretty successful season next year".

Things to Do This December

- Try Out New Recipes
- Have a Winter Photo Shoot
- Have a Gingerbread House Competition
- Secret Santa with Friends
- Christmas Movie Marathon
- Drive through a Christmas Light Show

Specific Ideas Linked to Image/Graphic by CreeAnn Bozarth

Below: The Lions run onto their home field for the final game of the season Nov. 3 against the Beckville Bearcats.

Right: Family members escorted senior band members Caden Handorf, Colter Fowler, Josh Baker, Sumeet Mattu, Angelina Leyva, Carsyn Hudgens, Chloe Staley, Mackenzie Arden, Stacey Leon-Ramos, Briyanna Blalock, Natalie Martin and Emily Lynch, along with each football player, cheerleader and cross country runner not at the state meet across the field during the pre-game senior night celebration. Photos by Daytona Vaughn



GROVE GAZETTE

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GROVE.GAZETTE

Upcoming Events

Dec. 1-3
HS Boys' Basketball @White Oak Tournament

Dec. 1
Band Christmas Concert

Dec. 2-3
FFA State LDE Contest @Huntsville

Dec. 2
JH ATSSB All-Region Band Auditions

Dec. 3
MORP Student Council Toy Drive — 7 p.m.

Dec. 5
Blood Drive
JH Boys' Basketball @Ore City — 5 p.m.
JH Girls' Basketball v. Ore City — 5 p.m.

Dec. 6
STAAR English I Retake

December retests will be the last STAAR administration before implementation of the test redesign, which placed a 70% cap on multiple-choice questions, replacing those questions with new item types, and changed the essay genre. Students should expect non-fiction passages to reflect current science and social studies curriculum and essays that require analysis and explanation supported by text evidence on future administrations.

HS Boys' Basketball v. Harmony — 5 p.m.

Dec. 7
JH Academic UIL Meet

Dec. 8-10
V Boys' Basketball @Gary Tournament
V Girls' Basketball @Brook Hill Tournament

Dec. 8-9
FFA Greenhand Camp

Dec. 8
STAAR English II, Algebra II Retakes

Coach Donnie Denman gets a B12 shot Nov. 8. Nurse Jodie Mayhan coordinated the staff's monthly injections with Aurora Concepts. Photo by Jamie Russell



Dec. 9
HS ATSSB All-Region Band Auditions @New Boston

Dec. 10
Fishing Team @Lake Palestine
JH Boys' Basketball @White Oak Tournament

Dec. 12
JH Girls' Basketball @Big Sandy — 5 p.m.
FFA Christmas Party

Dec. 13
HS Boy's Basketball v. Detroit — 5 p.m.
HS Girls' Basketball @Harleton — 5 p.m.

Dec. 14-16 Exam Schedule

	High School	Junior High
Wednesday 14	1st Period: 7:50-8:36	1st Period: 7:50-8:36
	2nd Period: 8:40-9:31	2nd Period: 8:40-9:31
	3rd Period: 9:35-10:21	3rd Period: 9:35-10:21
	4th Period: 10:25-11:11	4th Period: 10:25-11:11
	5th Period: 11:15-12:01	Lunch: 11:15-11:50
	Lunch: 12:01-12:55	DEAL: 11:55-12:55
	7th Exam: 1:00-2:15	7th Exam: 1:00-2:15
	8th Exam: 2:20-3:45	8th Exam: 2:20-3:45
Thursday 15	1st Exam: 7:50-9:05	1st Exam: 7:50-9:05
	2nd Period: 9:10-9:20	2nd Period: 9:10-9:20
	3rd Exam: 9:25-10:40	3rd Exam: 9:25-10:40
	4th Exam: 10:45-12:00	4th Exam: 10:45-12:00
	Lunch: 12:00-12:55	Lunch: 12:00-12:35
	5th Exam: 1:00-2:15	DEAL: 12:40-12:55
	Academic: 2:20-3:45	6th Exam: 1:00-2:15
		DEAL: 2:20-3:45
Friday 16	2nd Exam: 7:50-9:05	2nd Exam: 7:50-9:05
	9th Exam: 9:10-10:25	9th Exam: 9:10-10:25
	Academic: 10:30-11:30	DEAL: 10:30-11:30
	Lunch: 11:30-12:05	Lunch: 11:30-12:05

Exemptions: Freshmen and sophomores must have 0 absences and an 80+ semester average, three absences and an 85+ semester average, or 4 or less absences and a 90+ semester average. Juniors and seniors must meet college readiness standards in addition to the underclassmen requirements.

School-related absences and up to two medical days, two documented college days, two funeral days (for immediate family), two court days, and partial-day absences excused by a doctor's note will not count against testing attendance.

Dec. 16
HS Boys' Basketball @Gary — 5 p.m.
HS Girls' Basketball v. Linden Kildare — 5 p.m.

Dec. 20
HS Basketball @Hawkins — 4 p.m.
HS Boys' Basketball v. Sabine — 5 p.m.
FFA Alumni Meeting — 6 p.m.

Dec. 27
V Girls' Basketball @American Airlines Center
 The varsity girls will travel to Dallas to play against the White Oak Rough-necks and then watch the Mavericks v. New York Knicks game.

Dec. 29-30
HS Girls' Basketball @Hallsville Tournament