

# The GROVE GAZETTE

Vol. IV, Issue 5

Union Grove JH/HS News

February 2023

Love and  
Basketball

Spring Sports Begin  
GT Wins at Model UN  
Valentine's Day  
Activity Guide



Cover: Colton Cowan (12) is named player of the week in the Longview News-Journal for his performance in the game played Jan. 16-20. Photo by Daytona Vaughn

Right: Landry Harris (7) dashes downcourt during the Jan. 19 game against Harleton. Below: Aubrie Coulter (7) keeps the ball from her Harleton pursuers. The girls beat the Ladycats 16-14. They also defeated All Saints 26-4 in the Spring Hill tournament. Photos by Kimber Smith



Eighth-graders Michael Gipson and Kolby Nutt attempt to take a Linden Kildare player's shot away during the Jan. 23 home game. The boys won 29-18. Photo by Ashlyn Heard



# Love of the Game

Jaxson Daniels (11) pushes past his Hawkins guard during the Jan. 24 home game. The Longview News-Journal named Daniels Player of the Week for his performance in the Jan. 3 win against Ore City and Jan. 6 over Big Sandy. "It felt great, especially seeing my mom finding out," Daniels said. He "had no clue" until she yelled at him from her room. He thought he was in trouble. "But it's definitely an accomplishment coming from a family of basketball players, and now I have the newspaper hanging right above my bed," Daniels said. Coach Hunter Gray nominated Daniels for his talent and work ethic. "[Daniels] worked extremely hard," Gray said. "He put in a lot of hours and performed at a really high level, and he was rewarded because of that. We are extremely proud of him." Photo by Daytona Vaughn





Left: Esmeralda Escobedo (11) looks for an open teammate during the varsity girls' game against Harleton Jan. 17. The Lady Lions won 72-20. Photo by Daytona Vaughn. Connor Mead (7) blows past his Linden-Kildare defender and looks for an open teammate. The seventh grade team beat the Tigers 24-22 on Jan. 23. Photo by Ashlyn Heard  
Below: Will Wilson (11) drives past his Hawkins guard during the Jan. 24 home game. Photo by Daytona Vaughn



Far Left: Gracie Stanford (12) blocks out a Ladycat during the Jan. 17 game. Photo by Daytona Vaughn.  
Left: Eliana Villamendez (8) edges toward the goal during the girls' 23-8 victory over Harleton Jan. 19. The girls also defeated 4A Kilgore 19-11 in the Spring Hill tournament. Photo by Kimber Smith

## Challenge Accepted Fans Pack Stands For Blue-Out Against Hawkins

### Daytona Vaughn

Word spread across social media that UG challenged Hawkins to fill the stands for the varsity rematch Jan. 24.

We didn't. But that didn't stop UG fans from filling every seat.

"I have never seen that many supportive fans at a Union Grove game in my life," Brady Colby (11) said.

Students made sure to get the word out on social media to get as many people in the crowd as possible.

"I think being part of the student section is a truly fun and exhilarating experience,"



Izzy Gregg (10) and Brendon Fuller (12) lead the student section's cheers during the Hawkins games Jan. 24. Photo by Daytona Vaughn

Brendon Fuller (12) said. "Everyone gets extremely involved, and it is amazing to see that."

And the crowd made a difference to the Lions and Lady Lions.

"Having the support from the student body was awesome!" Tyler Littlejohn (12) said. "It made the game so fun, and I can't wait to see the student section for

the next game."

Senior Colton Cowan led the boys' team with 12 points, eight rebounds, and two assists; Jaxson Daniels (11) scored seven points, three rebounds, and two steals; and Jace Roberts (10) scored five points, 10 rebounds, and two assists. For the girls, Ava Wightman (11) scored eight points and four rebounds; Taylor Campbell (10) seven points and five rebounds; Gracie Winn (12) seven points, three rebounds, and a steal; and Sarah Prince (10) two points, eight rebounds and two steals.

After key victories against Ore City, Linden Kildare, and Harleton, both teams will advance to playoffs, with the boys' team second in the district and the girls vying for second or third with McLeod.

The details of the first playoffs games are yet to be determined, but one thing is for sure: where the Lions and Lady Lions go, their fans will follow.





Lainey Ledbetter (12) deadlifts 270 pounds with an audience of Overton Lady Mustangs at the Union Hill meet Jan. 8. Photo by Daytona Vaughn



## Strength in Numbers Powerlifters Rank Regionally After January Quad Meets

### Lucky Woodard

On Monday, Jan. 8, the Lady Lions powerlifting team competed at Union Hill, where almost all of the girls hit record lifts.

“It was encouraging to see these young ladies break personal records on their first opportunity of the season,” coach Donnie Denman said.

Lainey Ledbetter (12) won the 198lb weight class, followed by Jessica Hobbs (12) in second. Addison Smith (11) placed second and Savanna Clark (10) third in the 181lb, and Daytona Vaughn (11) placed fourth in the 165lb weight class.

“I know I can’t speak for everyone else, but I want to beat all of my maxes from last year,” junior Daytona Vaughn said. “I definitely think that getting mentally stronger will help me get physically stronger and help me achieve my goals of lifting more than I did last year.”

Then, on Friday, Jan. 19, the boys’ team

hosted and won a quad meet with an overall team score of 51 points.

Four Lions won their weight classes: Isaiah O’Neal (11) with a total of 760 lbs, James Evans (12) with 915 lbs, Jacob Griffin (10) with 1090 lbs, and Reed Cooper (12) with 1190 lbs. Preston Woodall (12) placed second in his weight class with 725lbs, Jacob Humphreys (10) second with 990lbs, Gary Dacus (11) third with 620lbs, Joey Adams (10) third with 670lbs, Tommy Branscom (10) third with 940lbs, and Dalton Hawkins (9) third with 900lbs. Carter Cooper (9) placed fifth with 715 lbs, and Calab Day (9) placed sixth with 665 lbs.

“I feel like as a team we did really good for our first meet of the year,” junior Gary Dacus said. “But there’s always room for improvement. I would like to improve myself by increasing my weight and continuing to lift more than what I was lifting last year before my accident.”

Above: Gary Dacus (11) squats 245 pounds at the Jan. 19 quad-meet against Overton, Union Hill, Leverett’s Chapel. Dacus placed third in his weight class, behind teammate Isaiah O’Neal (11) in first.

Reed Cooper (12) squats 480 pounds at the quad meet. Cooper benched 275 and deadlifted 435 for a total of 1190 pounds, which earned him first place in the 242lb weight class. Photos by Kimber Smith

## Regional Standings

As of Jan. 25

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Savanna Clark    | 15 |
| Reed Cooper      | 7  |
| James Evans      | 10 |
| Jacob Griffin    | 11 |
| Jessica Hobbs    | 4  |
| Lainey Ledbetter | 3  |
| Isaiah O’Neal    | 9  |
| Addison Smith    | 7  |



# Spring Sports Back in Session

## Baseball, Softball, Track Teams Prep for February Competitions

**Jamie Russell and CreeAnn Bozarth**

Athletes who don't play basketball have begun preparing for the baseball, softball, and track seasons.

The baseball team started practicing Friday Jan. 13 and the following Saturday.

"The guys brought really great energy and effort both days," Coach Chad Halcumb said. "This is a group that really loves baseball and the style we play here at The Grove."

Preseason hits full swing with the alumni game Feb. 18th and the Elysian Fields tournament Feb. 23-25 before district play begins Feb. 28 with an away game against Carlisle.

"Practice is definitely harder than I thought it would be, but it's also very fun and Coach Halcumb makes us work hard for the program," freshman Carter Cooper said. "Union Grove's baseball atmosphere is a lot different than what I am used to. We are extremely well put together and it feels more like a family."

The boys' district competition will include

Harleton (2022 bi-district finalist), Union Hill (2022 regional finalist), Big Sandy (2022 bi-district finalist), Beckville (2022 regional quarterfinalist), and Hawkins (area finalist), but with six returning starters who received post-season accolades last year, Halcumb is "super pumped" about the season.

"It is going to be a tough district but we are looking forward to a lot of good baseball," Halcumb said. "Protect the Pride!"

Without the girls' basketball players, Coach Molly Mackey does not have enough players to field a softball team and had to cancel the February scrimmages, but the girls will play Arp on Valentine's Day before their first tournament of the year, Feb. 16-18 in Sabine.

"I very excited to see what this year's season is going to bring," Izzy Gregg (10) said. "Everyone is working hard with a good mindset in practice. I love everyone's encouragement, and we always do everything as a team!"



Photo by Daytona Vaughn

High school track does not compete until March 3, but junior high girls will compete Feb. 21 at White Oak, then the boys and girls teams will host the first home meet of the year —and first ever meet for seventh grade boys— Feb. 27.

"I'm excited," Konner Messer (7) said. "I want to do shotput and discus. And I think doing cross country [last fall] will help me succeed with track."

Messer said the boys have been working lower body to get faster. The girls have been running sprints and timed bleacher drills during the athletic period.

"I'm kind of excited," Eliana Villamendez (8) said. "This year, I'm going to try harder and do more relays."

## Shotgun Team Takes Aim at San Antonio

**Lucky Woodard and Jamie Russell**

A record number of shooters will represent UG at the San Antonio Rodeo Junior Shoot-Out at the National Shooting Complex Feb. 16-18, which tests both team and individual skill.

"You never really know how well you're going to perform in shotgun until you get there," sophomore TJ Fowler said. "We have been practicing a lot and getting ready, and we've been doing well. As a team, we'll crack up a lot of points, but independently I should do fine."

This is Fowler's second year in the competition, which uses a formula for scoring that allows any shooter to win. To prepare, the boys practice every Thursday after school.



The team of Kylan Daniels (10), Colton Jamison (10), Cason Cowan (10), TJ Fowler (10), Jeremiah McGee (11), Rowan Moore (11), Jayse Swigart (9), and Travis Steele (10) won first place overall at the Elysian Fields FFA shoot in October. Photo by Bobby Painter

"Everyone has been improving in practice," sponsor Bobby Painter said. "Our goal is always for each competitor to have a personal best. I believe we are on

track to meet that goal."

The boys also hope to win lots of prizes — maybe even a \$10,000 scholarship.



# GT Students Win Plaque for Impromptu Resolution Writing At January's Region 7 Model United Nations Conference

Nine junior high Gifted and Talented students represented Haiti and Bolivia at the Region 7 Model UN Conference Jan. 23 and 24, the group's first appearance at such an event.

"It was kinda fun because we got to talk about all the countries and show off our flags in a flag walk," Kaden Carter (7) said. "It felt exciting because we got to do something new for GT."

As part of the conference, students watched a video on lead poisoning and then were given one hour to research and write an impromptu resolution.

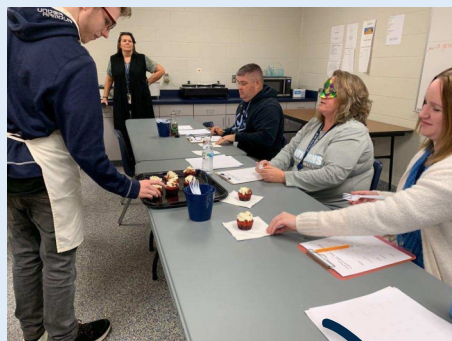
"The Haiti group got third place, probably would have done better if I had not interrupted frequently with instructions for other parts of the competition," sponsor Tina Burns said. "We were mainly there to observe this year, so we were all surprised when they called our nation."

Since this was the group's first appearance at Model UN, they only participated in the general assembly, in which they voted on resolutions as a team. Next year, they'll break into smaller groups or enter sessions that simulate meetings like the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), or North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as individuals. The seventh graders also plan to enter the 3D map competition next year.

"I am so proud of them for all of their hard work," Burns said. "We are planning on a lot more hardware next year!"



Top: Abby Daugherty (7), Carson Jacobus (8), Parker Johnston (8), and McClane Handorf (8) win third place in impromptu resolutions as the Haiti delegation at the Jan. 23-24 Model UN competition at Region 7. Above: Seventh graders Bree Cox, Hannah Haggard, Brycen Porter, Connor Mead, and Kaden Carter represented Bolivia. Photos by Tina Burns



## Cupcake Wars

Advanced Culinary Arts students face off in Mrs. Tamara Merritt's "Cupcake Wars".

Intro-to-Hospitality students made safety precaution posters, and the Intro to Culinary Arts class crafted recipes and pitched their food combinations in a shark tank competition. The winners took a field trip to Walmart Jan. 18 to spend their gift card prizes. Photos by Paulina Navarro-Gonzalez



# Debate Teams Win District Medals

## Daytona Vaughn

Four cross-examination debate teams scored medals during their district meet at Ore City Jan. 26. Kyler Littlejohn (12) and Brendon Fuller (12) placed third, Colton Mead (10) and Jamie Russell (10) fourth, Kendall Wennmohs (12) and Parker Haley (9) fifth, and Paulina Navarro-Gonzalez (11) and Jeremiah McGee (11) sixth for over 36 combined points toward the over-all district championship.

“Competing was super nerve-wracking because there was so much pressure to do my best,” Russell said. “It was also very exciting to get to be there, though, especially because this is my first year. I am excited for next year because I will have more experience and practice.”

Debate sponsor Sandy Spears, who also sponsors theater and yearbook, won the Star Staff member of the month award for January. At the school board meeting, she was surprised to learn that she’d also won a 2022 UIL Sponsor of Excellence award, the recipients of which are chosen by a committee for their leadership, use of resources, and classroom teaching.



Clockwise from top left: Littlejohn and Fuller, Wennmohs and Haley, Mead and Russell, Navarro-Gonzalez and McGee. Photos by Rhonda Baker

# Creative Students Need Non-Performing Outlet Admin Should Offer Art Among Next Year’s Courses

## Emma Holder

In a school with such a wide range of electives, it’s hard to believe an art class is not among them.

There are a lot of artistic students at UG without an expressive outlet — students who love to draw, paint, and create, but currently there’s a lack of options for creative minds who don’t want to perform on-stage.

In the future, admin should offer an art elective to satisfy the fine arts credit students need to graduate.

The musicians have band, and the actors, singers, dancers, and tech crew have theater. The future engineers have Systems-Go. The future doctors and nurses have a medical pathway. We have Printshop, Culinary Arts, Accounting, Cybersecurity,

and a plethora of agriculture courses.

Artistic students can compete locally and nationally to win awards and recognition like any of these groups. They deserve a class they wholeheartedly enjoy and where they can be surrounded by like-minded peers, too.

Others might just see a bunch of kids given the opportunity to make a mess, but an art elective would still be a class with grades and deadlines like any other, and having an art class will benefit more than just the art students. Need a poster done or props for theater? The art class would have it covered.

And art classes in other high schools have helped students with motivation, social skills, critical-thinking, problem-solving,

teamwork, and ability to concentrate — all things very important for children and young adults to have in a school setting.

Pine Tree High School has an entire wing dedicated to art. Its walls celebrate students’ work and achievements.

There’s a magnet school in Tyler completely dedicated to fine arts, including digital art and visual arts.

Sabine, White Oak, Tatum, and Ore City all have art.

Right now, an art elective is just wishful thinking for UG students — a dream to learn new ways to express creativity and develop artistic skills.

But when course selection comes around this spring, art should be on it.



# All-You-Can-Eat Crawfish Boil, Area Contests Fill February Calendar for FFA Students

**Nick Scavone**

FFA will host an authentic Louisiana crawfish boil and live and silent auction on Saturday, Feb. 25 at Shadow Ranch in Gilmer. Tickets will cost \$30 for adults (anyone over 12) and \$20 for 12-year-old and younger children. The all-you-can-eat event will span from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

“This is a really big event for our community and our FFA program,” Ag teacher and FFA sponsor Josh Shafer said. “The Union Grove FFA Alumni will put that money back into the FFA program through helping pay for travel, contests, awards, banquets, and possibly even scholarships.”

The event will also auction student projects, such as fire pits, a backyard smoker, a Wok style cooker, blanket ladders, picnic tables, and handmade spurs.

“I am really looking forward to the crawfish boil,” Carter Cooper (9) said. “I hope lots of people come and it performs well.”

The tractor tech team will compete in their area contest Feb. 3. Aidan Vanmeter

(12), Cash Coleman (11), and Rowdy Williams (11) previously competed in the Paetow invitational in Katy Jan. 14 and placed fifth as a team. Coleman also placed sixth individually.

“We will be going to look at a Kubota tractor on the way down there,” Coleman said. “Then we will head to the contest at Sam Houston State University. The contest consists of 3 sections which are debugging, test, and components.”

Then the meat-judging team of Kenia Velazquez (12), Angelina Leyva (12), Sam Stanley (10), and Lane Turner (11) will compete Feb. 18. The five-part contest includes identifying cuts and judging quality of meat, and answering questions.

“Meat judging is something I never thought that I would be doing, but here I am, loving it,” Velazquez said.

Recently, 17 Agriculture students gained industry-based certifications by passing a 100-question exam.

“These certificates are both vetted and supported by big names in the agriculture



During the district convention Jan. 30, Jeremiah McGee (11) won an Area VI officer position, and sister Madeline (11) was voted 2023-2024 Daingerfield District Student Advisor. Photo by Andrea Shafer

industry,” Shafer said. “Due to their leadership in the field of animal science, employers recognize the value behind the Elanco brand.”

Sophomores and juniors earned Elanco Fundamentals of Animal Science Certifications, and seniors earned Elanco Veterinary Medical Applications Certification. Additional students are working on certifications in welding from the American Welding Society and wildlife ecology conservation and management from Ducks Unlimited.

# Junior High, High School Bands Prepare for Spring Contests

**Nick Scavone**



Kameron Townsend (11) earned a seat in the All-State band during his ATSSB area audition Jan. 7. Photo by Faith Woodall

Forty-five members of the high school band and 59 junior high musicians will play in the solo and ensemble contest Feb. 2-3 in Gilmer.

“I think that the solo and ensemble contest is a good way to challenge yourself with difficult music, and it’s a good way to learn how to collaborate with people,” freshman August Vestal said.

Most students begin with a Class 3 solo as seventh-graders and work their way up to Class 1 in high school, and their performances are judged on a 1-5 scale, 1 being almost perfect. In order to advance to the state contest, students must earn a 1 rating on a Class 1 piece.

“I have done the solo and ensemble contest for two years, and I plan on doing it again this year,” Vestal said. “Both my

seventh and eighth grade year I got a 1 on my solo. This year, I want to advance to state with my ensemble group.”

To prepare, soloists have been practicing with a pianist who will accompany them in contest, and ensemble members are working together before and after school and during their ensemble elective.

“I’m really excited for solo and ensemble this year,” sophomore Hannah Coulter said. “I’m in a French horn ensemble, and I think that if we work really hard we’ll be able to go to state.”

During the band periods, directors Andy Thompson and Jonathan Stafford have been preparing students for the upcoming Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. The bands will perform a practice run Feb. 28 before the actual contest in March.





Kyler Littlejohn (12) and Mackenzie Arden (12) rehearse William Cameron's "Violet Sharp". Photo by Daytona Vaughn

# Theater Classes Prepare Productions of "Violet Sharp", "Annie"

**Faith Woodall**

The high school one-act play cast and crew will attend a series of workshops to prepare this year's play — William Cameron's "Violet Sharp" — for the district competition in March. The group's tour will begin Feb. 7 in Gilmer, followed by Feb. 15 at TJC and ending Feb. 20 at UG.

"OAP isn't like a sport where we play x amount of games to improve, so these workshops are everything to us as far as

getting better," senior Kyler Littlejohn said. "When we go to the workshops, we learn from different judges about different things we can do to improve our play."

Last year, the theater department won third place at regionals and were named runners up to state, so the pressure is on to make this year's play, which takes place in 1932 New Jersey and surrounds the kidnapping of Charles Lindberg's son and the subsequent investigation, just as good or even better.

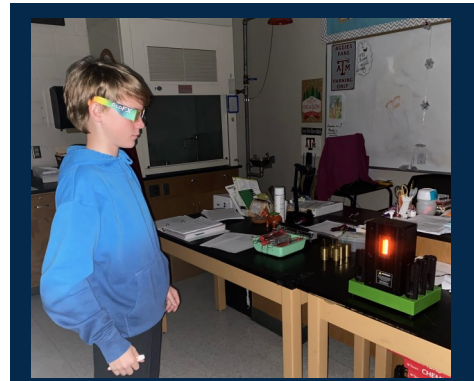
"My expectations for the district competition are high," Littlejohn said. "I believe our play will win, but that comes with hard work, which I believe all of us are ready to put in. We always get complimented on our chorus, so I am extremely confident as far as that is concerned."

The junior high theater class is preparing for their May 14 and 15 production of "Annie".

"It's a work in progress," Ryder Martindale (7) said. "We're doing the first scenes now. I think it'll be good. The one-act play was kind of rough at the beginning, and then we pulled through and won at the end."



Landry Harris (7) and Danica Vestal (8) run lines in the gym when their class is moved Jan. 30 for FFA convention preparation. Photo by Jamie Russell



Above: Chemistry student Ryder Johnson (10) uses diffraction glasses to view the spectral lines for each element during Mrs. Rhonda Baker's energy unit. Photo by Jamie Russell. Above: Porter Yohn (10) shines a flashlight through the diffraction lenses. Photo by Emma Holder

## GROVE GAZETTE

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

Editor-in-Chief: Faith Woodall

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| Jamie Russell    | Autumn Loven         |
| Nicholas Scavone |                      |
| Daytona Vaughn   |                      |
| Lucky Woodard    |                      |







# Taylor Sisters Not Horsing Around Pair Trains in Equestrian Events

**Jamie Russell**

“It’s what I do when I get home.”

“It’s where I go to clear my head.”

“You know how people have their one thing? That’s my thing.”

Sophomore Keira Taylor and eighth-grader Jill Taylor engage in an uncommon afterschool activity. For years, they’ve been training for equestrian competitions.

“I have been riding all my life,” Keira said. “Honestly, mom would just put us on little ponies when we were babies.”

At age eight, Keira started competing in equestrian events.

“We basically go through a course of jumps,” Keira said. “It is timed, so you just try to do it as fast as you can.”

The competitions test the rider’s partnership with the horse as much as the

horse’s athleticism, so Keira and Jill have to guide their horses Darby and Jasper accurately, respond quickly, and —most of all—stay calm.

“The most challenging part of horse riding is choosing to balance on a horse that’s frightened and not bail out,” Jill said.

The girls train their own horses, improving their relationship and increasing their skills over time.

“Horses are just like athletes, they go at different levels,” Keira said. “As I have gotten older, I have gotten different horses, ones that can do more advanced stuff.”

While the sisters train together and support each other, they also enjoy good-hearted competition, and sometimes make things even more interesting with



From top: Keira Taylor (10) and her mother Shawna Eitel after a competition. Photo used with permission from Ingrid Fease of Ingrid Fease Photography “I love spending time with my horse, but the best part of riding is knowing that you did good when you win,” Jill Taylor said. Photo by Shawna Eitel

sisterly challenges.

“Competing with my family has always made a competitive sport more enticing,” Jill said. “The friendly competition is especially fun when I win and get out of doing the dishes or other household chores.”



# Valentine's Day Activities for Anyone

## CreeAnn Bozarth

Together or alone—these activities are a fun and inexpensive way for anyone to celebrate Valentine's Day.

### ♥ Watch a Movie Marathon

Romantic movies like "The Notebook", "Sixteen Candles", or —obviously— "Valentine's Day" can put viewers in the holiday spirit, but unattached movie enthusiasts may prefer less romantic films like "Valentine" or "Thelma and Louise".

### ♥ Have a Picnic

Bundle up, throw together some quick finger foods, and take a walk or scenic drive to a nearby park, or —if the weather won't cooperate— create an indoor picnic.

### ♥ Enjoy Themed Food

Papa John's sells a heart-shaped pizza Feb. 6-14, or you can make your own with all your favorite toppings.

### ♥ Bake Sweet Treats

Baking cookies, cupcakes, or yummy brownies — especially heart-shaped delights— bring out the sweetness of this holiday. Make it a friendly competition to spice things up.

### ♥ Write Love Letters

The notes don't have to be romantic. Try putting your love for friends and family members into words. Think about specific details, a la Lara Jean from "To All the Boys I've Loved Before".

### ♥ Visit the Library or Bookstore

A perfect date for bibliophiles — spend an afternoon with a cup of hot chocolate and a great book.

### ♥ Volunteer

Spending Valentine's Day giving back shows how much you love your community and the people in it. Mentor a younger student, help an elderly person, pick up trash, or give your time for a local animal adoption center.

### ♥ Love Yourself

Break out the candles and bath bombs for some me-time, cook your own favorite meal, or listen to music while you engage in your favorite hobby.

# Valentine Grams



The journalism team will sell Valentine's Day candygrams Feb. 1-8 to be delivered on Valentine's Day.

"We want to help students and staff show their love for friends, family members, and classmates by selling candy that will come with a card drawn by journalism artist Emma Holder," sponsor Kimber Smith said.

Holder created three designs so students can choose which card to send, as well as add a custom note for the recipient.

"I'm excited to make them because it's always good to do something different with my art," Holder said. "Experimenting is good, but I really want to is because it's how I contribute to the fundraiser. I'm not very good at talking to people, so selling would be a bust, and I'd take art over financing any day."

Show your love by sending your valentines a candygram with your choice of festive card!  
\$1 Small or \$3 Large  
Order Feb. 1-8 from Mrs. Smith (C16) before or after school or from a journalism team member during B lunch.

## "The Purrfect Valentine" by Emma Holder





# Upcoming Events

- Feb. 2**  
Boys Powerlifting — 4:15 p.m.
- Feb. 2-3**  
JH Band Solo & Ensemble @Gilmer
- Feb. 3**  
FFA Area Tractor Tech Contest @SHSU
- Feb. 4**  
Fishing Team @Lake Fork
- Feb. 4-5**  
Theater Workshop @Carthage
- Feb. 6**  
Girls Powerlifting — 4:15 p.m.  
JH Girls Basketball @Big Sandy — 4:30 p.m.  
JH Boys Basketball v. Big Sandy — 5 p.m.
- Feb. 7**  
HS Basketball @McLeod — 4 p.m.
- Feb. 7-8**  
Theater Workshop @Gilmer
- Feb. 7-11**  
All-State Band Clinic Concert @ San Antonio
- Feb. 8-9**  
Rocketry Presentation @Houston
- Feb. 10**  
HS Boys Basketball @Harleton — 5 p.m.
- Feb. 11-12**  
FFA @Texas Elite Swine Showcase
- Feb. 13**  
Boys Powerlifting @Union Hill — 4:15 p.m.
- Feb. 14**  
HS Boys Basketball v. Linden Kildare (Senior Night)  
Softball v. Arp — 5:30 p.m.

Seventh-grade English classes throw paper airplanes to learn about prepositional phrases. Photo by Kimber Smith



## Casting Queens

Left: Emma Searcy (9) and Alyssa Mullican (9) weigh in at 3.28 pounds on Lake Palestine. "The fish didn't bite very well," sponsor Tracy Griffin said. "These two ladies found a way to weigh fish in." Photo by Tracy Griffin

Next, nine angler pairs will compete the Lake Fork tournament against approximately 180 total teams. "The Lake Fork tournament is going to be tough, for sure, with the current weather conditions and how much fishing pressure the lake gets," Griffin said. "We have several teams in the running to qualify for the regional tournament." Weighing in fish at Lake Fork will help secure regional qualification. "Fishing will be tough, but these anglers have some good boat captains that will help the anglers be successful," Griffin said. "We have high expectations that our teams will have a great tournament."

- Feb. 15-16**  
Theater Workshop @TJC
- Feb. 16**  
Girls Powerlifting Meet — 4:15 p.m.  
Baseball @Fruitvale — 6 p.m.
- Feb. 16-18**  
Skeet Shooting Team @San Antonio  
Softball @Sabine Tournament
- Feb. 18**  
Alumni Baseball Game — 11 a.m.
- Feb. 18-19**  
FFA Meat Judging Contest @San Angelo
- Feb. 20**  
Baseball @Arp — 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 21**  
JH Girls Track @White Oak  
Softball v. Sabine — 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 23**  
Boys Powerlifting — 4:15 p.m.
- Feb. 23-25**  
Softball @TLSUC Tournament  
Baseball @Elysian Fields Tournament
- Feb. 25**  
Band—Sleep First Mattress Expo  
FFA Crawfish Boil @Shadow Ranch — 5 p.m.
- Feb. 27**  
Blood Drive  
FFA Area VI Convention @Sulphur Springs  
JH Track Meet
- Feb. 28**  
FFA Applied Engineering Area Contest  
Band Pre-UIL Concert and Sight-Reading @Gilmer  
Baseball @Carlisle — 4:30 p.m.  
Softball @Alba-Golden — 5 p.m.