



The GROVE GAZETTE

Vol. V, Issue 8

Union Grove ISD News

April 2024

Easter
Eggstravaganza

ELEMENTARY UNVEILS
BOOK VENDING MACHINE
OAP OVERCOMES CRISIS,
ADVANCES TO AREA

On the Cover

Elementary students pick up Easter eggs from the helicopter egg drop March 28. "When the eggs fell from the sky, they looked like sprinkles," first-grader Scarlett Edwards said. "I was excited for the egg drop because I haven't done it since last year." PHOTO: Bella Foster

This page: Senior Gary Dacus clears a high jump bar taller than himself during the Dee Mackey Relays meet on March 1. PHOTO: Jamie Russell



GROVE GAZETTE

Published by:
Union Grove High School
11220 Union Grove Rd.
Gladewater, TX 75647

Editor-in-Chief: Faith Woodall
Business Manager: Sydney Pritchett
Sponsor: Kimber Smith

McClane Handorf	Bre Reynolds
Emma Holder	Jamie Russell
Bailee Hosak	Lucky Woodard
Aidan Jones	
Lillie Phillips	

Junior Staff

Anissa Barton	Layla Kirk
Kinleigh Birlew	Jaxon Ledbetter
Jordyn Bishop	Konner Long
Briana Bowling	Connor Mead
Hannah Caperton	Isaac O'Neal
Hailey Carter	Natalie Spruell
Aubrie Coulter	Connor Stanford
Bree Cox	Weston Tison
Bella Foster	Emma Wadle
Hannah Haggard	Adeline White
Alley Hale	Charlotte Wright



IN THIS ISSUE

4

Elementary
Easter Egg Drop

12

Softball, Baseball
Pick Up District
Wins

6

Academic
Opportunities
Take Front-Seat

13

Golf, Fishing,
Shotgun Team
Updates

7

Elementary
Honor Roll



8

One-Act Faces
Challenge to Win
District Contest

9

Sub Takes
Principal on Tour

Mayci Boland (9), Savanna Clark (11), Daytona Vaughn (12), Gary Dacus (12) and Isaiah O'Neal (12) each competed in the regional powerlifting meets. PHOTO: Jordyn Bishop

11

HS Track
Prepares
for District

15

Calendar of
Events

LETTERS FROM THE PRINCIPALS

As we approach the end of the 2023-24 school year, there are lots of events happening. Here are some of the events from March:

- Read Across America was the first week in March. We celebrated with many reading-based activities and dressed up in Dr. Seuss-themed outfits.
- We took a much-needed break for Spring Break March 11-15. The students and staff came back refreshed and ready for the last nine weeks!
- The Region 7 Planetarium was set up at the multi-purpose building the week of March 18-22. Several grade levels were able to go observe this model of the solar system "up close!"
- The Third Annual Helicopter Egg Drop was a HUGE success! Thank you to all the parents for sending candy-filled eggs. Thank you to Winn King for piloting the helicopter for us again this year. We love this event and look forward to it every year!

STAAR testing at UG Elementary begins April 9 and continues through April 30. See the Notes from the Office each Tuesday for exact dates. As always, you can email me at ballards@ugisd.org or call the office for more information.

Sincerely,
Sherrill Ballard
Elementary principal
ballards@ugisd.org
903-845-3481

It's been a busy month!

Our teachers and students have been working diligently for the STAAR test with tutorials and benchmark tests. Student groups have been competing every week. Golf is heading to regionals, high school track is preparing for district, and our baseball and softball teams have recorded victories in the race for district championship. Ag, FFA and band have been successful in multiple competitions. Our One-Act Play team is heading to area. I am excited about our upcoming career day scheduled for May 6. It is important at Union Grove that we prepare our students not only for college but for possible careers that don't require college.

To see all the events happening this month, go to <https://www.ugisd.org/calendar>

A few reminders:

- If you have any questions about dress code, you can check the Student Handbook posted on the school website.
- Parents who bring food for their child's lunch need to check in at the office before meeting their child in the cafeteria.

I wish everybody a happy Easter!

David Chatterton
JH/HS Principal
903-845-5506 / chattertond@ugisd.org

Sounds of Spring Bands Prepare for Concert

By Faith Woodall

Each band will perform their spring selections April 30 in the Lion Center. The concert will begin at 6 p.m. with the sixth-grade band followed by junior high and high school.

"My favorite part about the spring concert would have to be wrapping up the band year by dressing up and displaying the music we played at the UIL contest," senior band president Jenna Scott said. "This will be my last time playing on the same stage as my cousin, so I'll be all in my feels. I'm grateful for my time spent in this organization, and I'll cherish the memories forever."

The concert will feature the ensembles that will advance to the state solo and ensemble contests at the end of May.

"After meeting during our free time and practicing on my own when I can, I am beyond excited that we earned a spot at the state contest," junior Jaycie Mullins said. "However, the only one who got to see our performance was the judge, so I am very proud to get to showcase our piece to my friends and family."



High school band director Andy Thompson announces the band scored straight ones and the title of Sweepstakes Band in the UIL Concert & Sight Reading contest for the 34th consecutive year. PHOTO: Faith Woodall



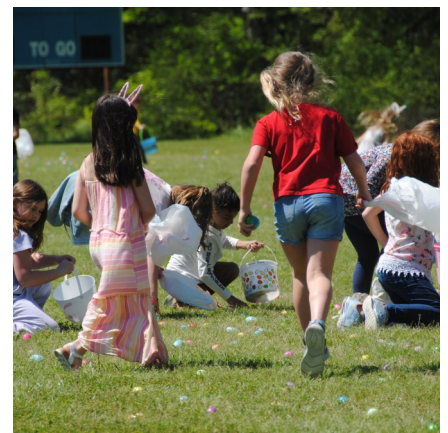
It's Raining Eggs

By Bella Foster and Layla Kirk

The elementary hosted their third annual egg drop March 28.

Teachers Jennifer Morvan, Kathleen Thomas and Carrie Carter volunteered to drop bags of eggs from the helicopter for kindergarten through sixth graders to find.

"The eggs were falling all over the place," kindergartner Elijah Crozier said. "I was excited because the helicopter was dropping the eggs. One of the eggs cracked cause it fell and broke piece by piece, so I didn't pick it up."





Outsmarting the Competition

UIL Hopes to Continue Win Streak

Most students will have a holiday April 3 so that the high school campus can accommodate teams from other schools attending the district academic UIL meet.

"We are very excited about the upcoming HS UIL academic meet and seeing our students compete," UIL coordinator Rhonda Baker said. "Union Grove has a history of success in UIL, and we look forward to continuing that tradition."

The high school has won the district championship for the last ten consecutive years, and several teams, including accounting, have been preparing all year by attending invitational and virtual meets.

"I am very excited to see how our accounting team performs at the high

school UIL meet," sophomore Carter Cooper said. "We have gone to several invitational meets and won all of them. We have a very young team, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for UG accounting, Mrs. Sutton is always making sure we are working overtime to take home first place at district."

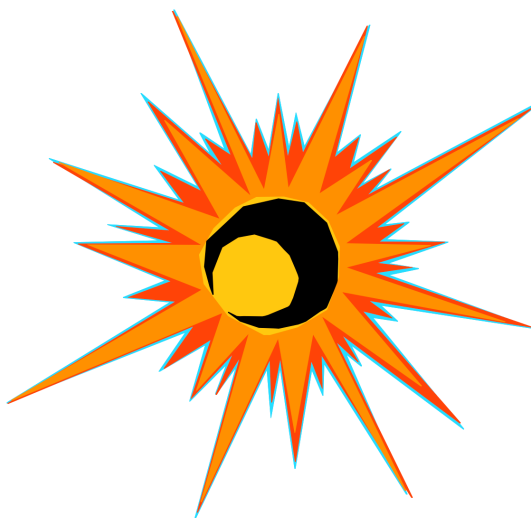
The One-Act Play and cross-examination debate teams have already accrued points toward the district's total, and most events will be complete at the end of April 3. However, the championship cannot be finalized until April 8, when speech events, including LD debate, take place at First Baptist Church in Gladewater.



8th grade Money Matter students played Pit to learn about stocks. PHOTO: Gailyn Sutton

Students who place in the top three in their respective contests will advance to the regional meet at Panola on April 26, where the district has placed in the top two schools overall for the last two years.

Patty Jones's Computer Apps classes perform choreography as part of a lesson on nested loops. "Making up a dance was fun," seventh-grader Cheston Martin said. "We did the best out of the whole class. We had the best song, too." PHOTOS: Jamie Russell



Art by Emma Holder

Rare Sighting

Students to View Solar Eclipse

The district will provide glasses with solar filters so students and staff may view the eclipse around 1:40 p.m. April 8.

"Since we recently finished our space unit, I think it'll be exciting for my kids to see it for real," eighth-grade science teacher Tina Burns said. "We've discussed solar eclipses before, but seeing it on paper and seeing it in person are completely different."

A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, blocking the sun from view. According to NASA, the sky will darken like it does at dusk or dawn.

A generous donor provided the elementary campus with a complete set of glasses, and the district purchased glasses for the junior high and high school so that all students can witness the total eclipse, which has not occurred since 2017 and is not expected to occur again until August of 2044.

The district recently distributed a letter from Superintendent Kelly Moore asking parents to speak with their children about the importance of wearing the solar filter glasses as directed and not looking directly at the sun, even while wearing the glasses.



PHOTOS: Faith Woodall

Hungry for Knowledge

Elementary Holds Ribbon-Cutting for New Book Vending Machine

Elementary students and staff held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new book vending machine, which works like a traditional vending machine but dispenses books instead of snacks or drinks and uses special coins, on March 4.

The campus acquired the vending machine through a grant from Greater Longview United Way's Read to Succeed Program and is the first school in Upshur County to do so.

"We are honored to be the first campus in Upshur County to be awarded the book

vending machine," elementary principal Sherrill Ballard said. "The kids get so excited when they insert coins and receive a book that they get to choose."

The United Way grant filled the vending machine initially, and Ballard says the campus and PTO will work together to keep it filled with "quality books the students will want to read."

Sixth-graders Alexander Moncada and Sara Spears performed the official ribbon-cutting, attended by students chosen from each grade by their teachers.

Third Quarter Honor Roll

ALLA's

Third Grade: Weston Acton, Ryker Canaguier, Karah Crump, Braxlee Dinkins, Leah Guthrie, Allie Halcumb, Aerilyn Reeves, Reagan Steele **Fourth Grade:** Ember Burnett, Caitlin Daugherty, Eli Fleming, Jim Hogue, Aristyn Johns, Avery Johnston, Sophia Norris, Braxton Rich, Charles Shelton, Owen Smith **Fifth Grade:** Ian Adams, Olivia Barbee, Kaydance Deller, Noah Dip-pold, Hunter Hogue, Blakely Prince **Sixth Grade:** Hailey Lee, Cooper Littlejohn, River Martindale, Alexander Moncada Sanchez, Ruston Roberts, Brooklynn Scott, Nicholas Spears

A & B's

Third Grade: Ryder Adkinson, Gunner Allen, Elena Archer, Gabriella Bowling, Brooks Brantley, Lylah Delaney, Leighton Donaldson, Amelia Dougherty, Aubrey Ducote, Dillon Ferrell, Caleb Freeman, Maycee Gipson, Jack Handorf, Melany Hulsebus, Jake Kessler, Phoenix Knight, Victoria Lara, Jacob McDougal, Jace Monk, Eric Mullins, Juliana Navarro, Elliott Orr, Ariel Owens, Ryley Phillips, Leslie Ramos Gomez, Madalynn Rickey, Madison Ryan, Garrett Saye, Maren Thomas, Riley Velin, Everly Wadle, Harrison Wright **Fourth grade:** Beau Bayne, Kohen Birlew, Raylee Bridges, Skylar Coddington, Gunner Coppedge, Cameryn Davis, Alayna Dole, Justin Gable, Alexis Gipson, Jaxon Glaze, Indy Gregg, Aliyah Hammett, Raynlee Head, Gauge Hulsebus, Ashlyn Jones, Hadleigh Lake, Abigail Lakey, Macie Langley, Skye Love, Halle Martin, Daniella Navarro-Gonzalez, Addison Orms, Emmett Orr, Konin Pharr, Ava Phillips, Cambree Randolph, Raylen Ravellette, Austin Reed, Charلز Spruell, Leah Stegall, Maddox Strong, Cooper Swinford, Rylann Venn, Alexander Warren, Conner Westmoreland **Fifth Grade:** Ethan Archer, Landon Caperton, Olivia Diaz, Faith Druschke, Trenton Easley, Brody Gumm, Trinity Haydel, Harley Herrin, Lily Holland, Kristopher Kent, Amber Lee, Embrie Long, Gabriel Lormand, James Madding, Jeralee Mullins, Khloe Payne, Skye Perez, Ryleigh Phillips, Lucie Pirtle, Boyd Potter, Gavin Pritchett, Brooklyn Scott, Paul Shreves, Rayson Smith, Xavier Tennison, Iker Uribe, Steffan Wallace, Reagan Walts, Scarlet Webb, Joseph Wilson **Sixth Grade:** Breanna Badgett, Coleton Burnett, Aubree Cooper, Jackson Coulter, Gunner Davis, Matthew Delaney, Lucious Dotten, Kayson Forster, Adalyn Hampton, Hannah Hill, Kenadie Holder, Maycee Lewis, Graysen Mullins, Iliana O'Neal, Riley Ravellette, Andrew Rhodes, Claire Rogers, Grayson Selph, Kinley Smith, Sara Spears, Kashton Stanfield, Garrett Travis, Landon Wadle, Emmett Wright

OAP Advances to Area

'The Rivers and Ravines' Wins District, Bi-District After Accident Leads to Last-Minute Cast Change

By Jamie Russell and McClane Handorf

20 hours to curtain call, a key cast member totals his car.

16 hours to go, his family notifies sponsor Sandy Spears.

15 hours to go, she sends freshman Peyton Hancock a text to start memorizing.

The cast and crew of "The Rivers and Ravines" one-act play had to overcome several obstacles before their district meet, but on March 6 the team received all ones from the judges, several awards, and a spot to compete at the bi-district contest on March 27 at Panola College in Carthage.

"District was a bit stressful," director Sandy Spears said. "I found out the night before that we had a cast member involved in a car accident and wasn't sure they would perform. I contacted the contest manager and she told me to fix the play any way I could so the students could perform."

According to state rules, no additions can be made to the cast list, so Spears moved Hancock, who originally prepared to play a smaller character, into the injured cast member's role the night before the performance.

"When I got the message, it was by far the last thing I was expecting," Hancock said. "I know I shouldn't have been happy,

but I felt as if I finally could prove myself to Mrs. Spears. I could not let this opportunity go to waste, so I got up and immediately started memorizing lines."

Hancock stayed up until midnight and practiced for another two hours the morning of the contest, but he wasn't the only one who had to adjust. Without Hancock in his original role, and with no one to replace him, the other actors had to adapt to that character's absence.

"It was difficult having to relearn lines and blocking," sophomore Callista Reeves said. "The whole cast was already used to a particular way of doing it, like muscle memory. It was hard to change that and just trust that someone would save the show if we messed it up. Seeing how much of a success our hard work turned out to be was the biggest relief in the world when it was all said and done."

The actors' efforts were rewarded with multiple accolades: Top Performer for senior Sarah Clowers, All-Star Cast awards for seniors Daytona Vaughn and Madeline McGee, Honorable All-Star Cast for sophomore Hunter Rogers and All-Star Crew for senior Anna Flanagan.

"I felt so accomplished when I won, like all my hard work was paying off," Clowers said. "I hope that we will grow as a cast, continue winning awards and keep im-

proving our show. I am excited to advance and compete again."

As part of a new pilot tech award, district judges also awarded the whole crew an Outstanding Crew award.

"I felt very honored that me and the rest of the crew were chosen for an award that most people don't give out," senior light tech Keeley Rust. "I was a little shocked and excited; I didn't think that we would actually get that award."

Ore City, Big Sandy, McLeod, Hawkins, and Harleton each competed at the district contest. Hawkins and Ore City also moved on to bi-district, where teams competed with Mount Enterprise, Douglass and Overton and UG again came out on top. Clowers again won Top Performer, Rust won All-Star Crew, Vaughn and senior Owen Matthew won All-Star Cast and sophomore Hunter Rogers won honorable mention All-Star Cast, and the team advanced to the area meet April 12-13 in the Lion Center.

"I am excited to keep going on our journey, especially because we keep getting better every day," junior Brendon Deary said. "I feel like we have a good shot to make it all the way. I know we are ready for all of the new competition."



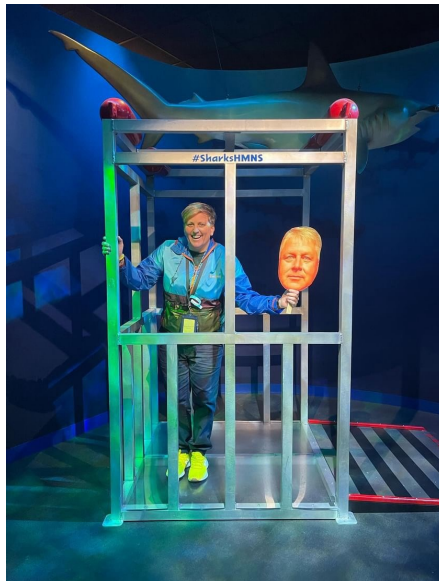
Seniors Sarah Clowers and Jeremiah McGee wait for results March 27 at the bi-district One-Act Play competition at Panola College in Carthage. PHOTO: Jamie Russell



Senior Katy King takes notes on the bi-district judges' critiques so the cast and crew can adjust before the area competition April 12-13. PHOTO: Jamie Russell

"Purrfectly Protected" by Emma Holder





The Face of Union Grove

Newly Named JH/HS Principal Travels Vicariously through Sub

On March 8, Superintendent Kelly Moore announced that former assistant principal David Chatterton will take over as principal on the secondary campus.

"I love Union Grove ISD, and I want to continue the amazing success that we have had and be part of keeping Union Grove headed in the right direction for the future," Chatterton said.

Chatterton was one of multiple candidates who completed formal applications and interviewed with a committee of junior high/high school employees. The committee unanimously chose Chatterton as a finalist for the position, and Moore presented him to the board on March 7.

Meanwhile, substitute Lindsey Pieniak carried a poster of Chatterton's head with her on her other job as tour guide.

"It started because I commented I was jealous of her job because she gets to go all over the United States and see all of these incredible places," Chatterton said. "Then I start getting these pictures, and she says how are you enjoying the tour today? I said wrong person. She said look closely. You're at NASA."

Coach Chat, as he is affectionately known, has walked a route of Alabama civil rights landmarks, completed a non-stop tour of Washington D.C. and helped 170 seventh graders complete the Orlando Tree Treks Adventure Park team



building program. He's taken a college tour of Rice University, fed stingrays, and ridden a Ferris wheel. He posed with a cowboy-hat clad police officer for Go Texan Day and stood between a triceratops and Tyrannosaurus rex at the Houston Museum of Natural Science museum. Pieniak said their Feb. 22 evening involved "some intense alligator wrestling, followed by a magical ride on carousel creatures straight out of a fairy tale".

"My tour groups adore having him with us," Pieniak said. "Especially knowing he's the principal at the school where I sub back in our small Texas town."

Drum Roll Please

Band Welcomes New Drum Major

By Jamie Russell

Sophomore August Vestal has a lot of work to do. For tryouts, she'll have to perform a memorized drill, sight-read, answer questions, conduct, and blow the whistle to signal the band.

And she only has a few days to prepare.

Vestal stressed, but after the March 9 tryouts, directors announced that this fall she will join veteran drum major, junior Hannah Coulter, in leading the band.

"I am feeling very excited about the next marching season because it's a new opportunity for me," Vestal said. "I already have a good feeling about next year. I am really excited to see how the band will progress."

Although Vestal has been in band for five years now, she didn't always want to be drum major.

"I decided that I wanted to try out super late," Vestal said. "Hannah and the directors really pushed me to do it. I am glad that I listened to them."

Because of her initial hesitance, Vestal only trained for two weeks. While she didn't practice long, she says she practiced hard.

"It wasn't for sure that I was gonna make it," Vestal said. "We all had a good chance."

Vestal and Coulter's bond — the girls both play French horn — combined with Coulter's experience will help the girls share what Coulter calls a "big responsibility" that takes "a lot of time and patience".

"I'm excited about being a co-drum major with August," Coulter said. "I think she'll do great, and I think we'll be a great duo. I'm very proud that we get to lead such an amazing group of people and continue the legacy that our band has."



JH Track Finishes Season at Ore City

By Hannah Caperton and Charlotte Wright

Each junior high track team finished their season with the district meet at Ore City on March 25. The seventh grade track teams each won first place overall, and the eighth grade teams both finished in fourth.

"Coach Baker and I are very proud of the girls' overall effort and competitiveness throughout the season but especially at district," girls' coach Greg Park said.

The teams prepared by competing in meets at Sabine and Harmony.

"I was super nervous because we've been going against bigger schools, so I had no idea what to expect," eighth-grader Daniel Fernandez said. "I never understood why the coaches put us up against bigger schools until I saw the results of our district meet."

Their hard work — and a few pep talks from parents, coaches or teammates — helped bolster them to victory at Ore City.

"Leading up to district, I felt nervous about competing," eighth-grader Landry Harris said. "Before my first race, my dad gave me a pep talk that boosted my confidence, and then I competed through the rest of the track meet confident in my ability to win my events."

7th Grade Girls—1st Place—154 pts

Morgan Morrow won the silver medal in long jump, as did Susanna Sturkie in the triple jump, followed by Maddison Bower in fourth. Gracelyn Jones placed fifth in both shot put and discus. Morrow also placed third in high jump, where Sturkie placed sixth.

Jillian Russell took third in the 2400m run and the 1600m run. Carmen James placed second and Bean fifth in the 200m dash, Sturkie won the 800m run and Zoey Johnston placed fifth, and Lori Lormand, James, and Kelsey Kent finished 3-4-5 on the 100m hurdles. Natalie Delaney placed fifth in the 100m dash, and Johnston and Kyleigh Blackstock placed fifth and sixth in the 400m dash. Morrow won the 300m hurdles, followed by Kent in fifth.

Nevaeh Bean, Bower, Morrow and Avelyn Wendel won the 4x100m relay; Bower, Carmen James, Sturkie, and Wendel won the 4x200; and Bower, Morrow, Sturkie and Wendel won the 4x400m.

7th Grade Boys—1st Place—161 pts

Brady Pritchett placed second and Noah Hart sixth in long jump, CJ Vaughn first and Colin Deaton third in discus, Braylen Yacks sixth in shot put, and Pritchett first



Junior Judson George hands off to senior Isaiah O'Neal in the varsity 4x100m relay. PHOTO: Jamie Russell

and Kale Reeves third in high jump.

Kylan Birlaw won both the 2400m and 1600m runs, and Reeves placed third in the 800m run and second in the 400m dash, followed by David Weinberg in sixth. Ian Adams finished third in the 110 hurdles, followed by Wyatt Stanley in fifth, Hart took second and Haiden Evans fifth in the 100m dash, and Evans placed second with Adams in fourth on the 300m hurdles. Yacks placed fifth in the 200m dash.

Pritchett, Deaton, Matthew Martin, and Hart took second in both the 4x100m and 4x200m relays and the 4x400 team of Pritchett, Deaton, Reeves, and Martin won first place.

8th Grade Girls—4th Place—86.5 pts

Emma Wadle placed second in pole vault, Mia Mullican placed fifth in shot put, and Aubrie Coulter, Brinley Campbell, and Wadle placed third, fourth and sixth respectively in high jump.

Bree Cox placed fifth and Aubrie Vanmeter sixth in the 2400m run. Landry Harris won the 800m run, followed by Wadle in third and Lisa Hill in sixth. Briana Bowling placed fourth and Coulter fifth in the 100m hurdles, Bella Foster placed sixth

in the 400m dash, and Bowling placed fourth in the 300m hurdles. Campbell placed sixth in the 200m dash, and Harris won the 1600m run, followed by Cox in sixth.

Bowling, Hannah Caperton, Hannah Pillow and Charlotte Wright placed fifth in the 4x100m relay; Campbell, Caperton, Pillow and Wright placed fifth in the 4x200m relay; and the 4x400m team of Caperton, Harris, Wadle and Wright placed second.

8th Grade Boys—4th Place—72 points

Daniel Fernandez placed fifth in long jump, Easton Head sixth in triple jump, and Trenton Wallace sixth in discus.

Liam Mayhan won the 2400m run, Jaxon Ledbetter placed fifth in the 110m hurdles, and Fernandez took second in the 100m dash. Head placed fourth in the 400m dash, Ledbetter placed fifth in the 300m hurdles, and Long took second in the 200m dash.

Fernandez, Jaxon Hobbs, Konner Long and Ryder Martindale won the 4x200m relay and placed third in the 4x100m. The 4x400m team of Connor Mead, Hobbs, Mayhan and Martindale placed sixth.



Below: Junior Rylee Aiken clears each hurdle in 18.89 seconds to win fourth place in the 100m hurdles during the Dee Mackey Relays event March 1. Sophomore Gracelyn Head pushes to pass an Ore City runner in the 100m dash. Head did not place, but she improved her time from 15.05 at Dee Mackey Relays to 14.73 at Winnsboro's Rugged Red Relays on March 14. PHOTOS: Jamie Russell



Matthew Martin (7) competes in the long jump at the Harmony meet on March 4. "I think this is my worst event," Martin said. "But it makes me feel like I'm flying." PHOTO: Hannah Haggard



Teammates Landry Harris (8) and Emma Wadle (8) celebrate placing first and second in the 800 meter run at the Sabine meet on March 15. PHOTO: Alley Hale

HS Track Teams Medal in Annual Meet

Of the fifteen schools that participated in the annual Dee Mackey Relays track meet on March 1, the varsity girls placed third, and the varsity boys tied for seventh.

Senior Sophie Pyle started the Lady Lions off with a fourth place finish in the 3200m run and sixth in the 800m run. Rylee Aiken (11) placed fourth in both the 100m hurdles the 300m hurdles. Ava Wightman (12) placed third in the 200m run, and Pyle placed third in the 1600m run, followed by teammate Jenna Scott (12) in sixth. The girls' 4x200m relay team of Wightman, Danica Vestal (9), Natalie Woodard (10) and Sarah Prince (11) placed sixth, and the 4x400m relay team of Wightman, Vestal, Prince and Rachel Potter (9) placed third. Savanna Clark (11) won the shot put, Addison Smith (12) placed third in discus, and Wightman placed fifth in the long jump. Gracie Lawrence (11) placed second in the pole vault, and Scott placed fourth in triple jump, where Aiken placed sixth.

Jace Roberts (11) placed third in the 110m hurdles, Luis Fernandez (10) placed fourth in the 400m run, and Will Wilson (12) placed sixth in the 1600m run. Roberts took second in the 300m hurdles, followed by Wrigley Roberts (10) in third and Jesse Fulmer (11) in fourth. The 4x400m relay team of Cason Cowan (11), Isaiah O'Neal (12), Roberts and Fernandez placed fifth. Jacob Griffin (11) won the discus, Roberts placed fifth in the triple jump, and Lane Turner (12) placed fifth in the pole vault.

The JV boys placed 10th overall with points from freshman David Shaver's fourth-place finish in the 800m run; the 4x200m relay team of Alston Mullins (11), Brady Gordy (9), Shaver and Kody Nutt's (9) fifth-place finish; Preston Travis's (10) fifth-place finish in the 400m run; and the 4x400m relay team of Gordy, Shaver, Nutt and Travis's third-place finish.

The teams will compete in their district meet April 1 and 4 at Hawkins.



All Gloves on Deck

Softball Defeats New Summerfield

By Kinleigh Birlew

The Lady Lions softball team defeated New Summerfield 14-9 on March 27.

Sophomore Kaki Pharr drove in four runs on four hits, and senior pitcher Allie Calhoun earned the win from the mound by only allowing four hits over seven innings. Senior Daytona Vaughn; juniors Gracelyn Head, Jamie Webb and Jaycie Mullins; and Calhoun tallied 15 hits in the game.

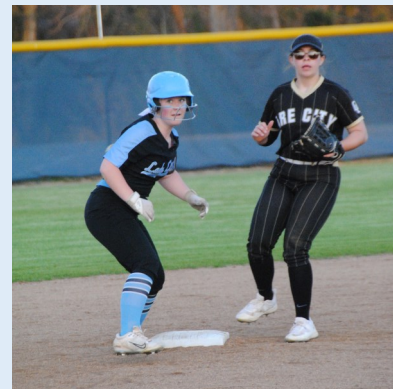
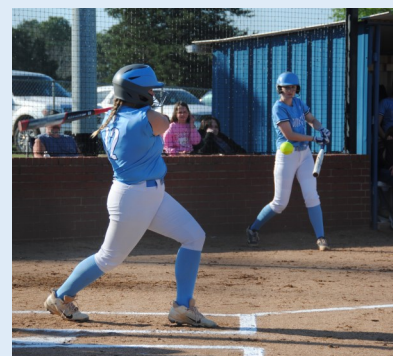
"The girls have improved, and we are starting to be comfortable in the field and at the plate," assistant coach Hunter Gray said. "Hopefully we can continue the upward trend of improved play."

The girls will face Carlisle April 3 due to field conditions on March 26 when the Lady Lions were supposed to finish round

one of district play with their game against the Lady Indians. The girls began round two against Ore City March 28, when junior Izzy Gregg and Pharr each hit a home run. The team will also face Big Sandy, Overton, Hawkins, Union Hill, New Summerfield and Carlisle again before the end of the regular season April 19.

Above: Senior Allie Calhoun pitches against Union Hill on March 19, while freshman Laklie Waller and junior Hagen Phillips block the sun in preparation to field a possible hit.

Right: Sophomore Kaki Pharr bats, and junior Izzy Gregg takes a practice swing on deck during the girls' game against Union Hill. Junior Jaycie Mullins prepares to steal third against Ore City on Mar. 5. PHOTOS: Bailee Hosak



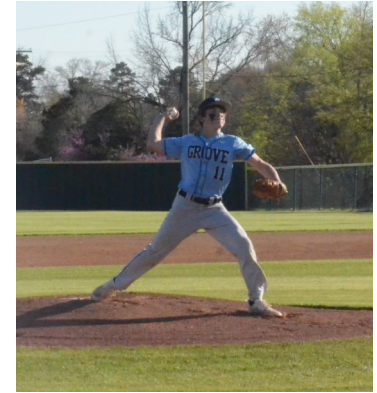
Baseball Teams Come Out Swinging

The varsity baseball team picked up district wins against Union Hill, Big Sandy, Hawkins, Leverett's Chapel and Carlisle in March, making their overall record 9-5. The 11-inning away game against the Carlisle Indians was a key victory, moving the Lions into playoff contention.

Sophomore Carter Cooper leads the team from the mound with 26 strikeouts and an earned run average of 2.042, junior Judson George is batting .400, and senior Rylan Roberts has batted in 11 runs.

The junior varsity was 2-2 as of March 27, with wins against Beckville and Haw-

kins, and has competed well against 3A teams from Grand Saline and Queen City, when they only lost by one run.



Above: Hudson Wightman (9) strikes out a Hawkins batter for a third out. The Lions won their first home game 5-4. PHOTO: Jaxon Ledbetter

Left: Cason Durgan (11) swings at a fastball and hits a line drive to the outfield during the JV game against Hawkins. PHOTO: Connor Mead

Lions Putt, Cast, Aim to Win

Golf

The golf teams earned trips to regionals April 15-18 after their success in the district tournament at Pine Springs on March 27.

The boys' team of seniors Will Wilson, Jaxson Daniels and Peyton Laake; junior Kayden Day; and sophomore Carter Cooper placed second with a team score of 341, behind Ore City with 338. Day won the individual championship with his score of 74.

Senior Sydney Pritchett, sophomores Kaki Pharr and Natalie Pritchett, and freshmen Averi Cook and Miley Nono also secured the second place team award with a score of 446, behind Harleton's girls with 427. Sydney Pritchett won the girls' individual championship with her score of 98.

Fishing

Seniors Cade Sullivan and Will Wilson and juniors Andrew Jacobus and Colton Jamison will advance to the regional fishing tournament at Lake Tawakoni on April 13.

The team most recently fished the Lake O' the Pines Tournament on March 24. Jacobus and Jamison placed 26th, juniors Jacob Griffin and Cason Cowan placed 48th, freshmen Hudson Wightman and Michael Gipson placed 54th and Wilson and Sullivan placed 77th.

To qualify for the regional tournament, teams must finish in the top 40% of angler pairs and attend all tournaments.

Shotgun

The shotgun team competed in the New Diana FFA David Ross memorial trap shoot March 30. Senior Jeremiah McGee won first place individually with a score of 99/100, the team of junior Cason Cowan, junior TJ Fowler and freshman Hudson Wightman placed second as a team with 277/300 points and the team of McGee, juniors Travis Steele and Colton Jamison and senior Jenna Scott placed third with 275/300.

"It's very rare for two teams from the same school to place in the top three," sponsor Bobby Painter said. "I've never seen that happen. I'm extremely proud of their improvement."

The teams will compete next at the state shoot in June at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio.

PROJECT ONE™

— R O O F I N G —

Residential & Commercial

Thank You
for Voting Us
Best Roofing
Company!



Building Trust in Roofing, One Project at a Time!

903-331-0456

3549 Gilmer Rd, Suite T
Longview, Texas 75604



Upcoming Events

April 1

HS District Track @Hawkins
JV Baseball v. Grand Saline — 6 p.m.

April 2

Softball v. Big Sandy — 5 p.m.
V Baseball v. Union Hill — 6 p.m.

April 3

Student Holiday
HS Academic UIL
FFA @McGregor CDE Invitational
Pre-K, Kindergarten Round-Up
Softball v. Carlisle — 5:30 p.m.
Paraprofessional Appreciation Day

April 4

School Librarian Appreciation Day
FFA @Area Forage CDE
HS District Track @Hawkins

April 5

Elementary GT @Region 7
JH Band Concert & Sight-Reading
Contest @Gilmer
FFA @Champions Prep, San Angelo
Softball @Overton — 4 p.m.
Baseball @Beckville — 4:30 p.m.

April 6

Autism Baseball Game
FFA @Area VI Meat-Judging CDE

April 8

HS Academic UIL Meet (Speech)

April 9

STAAR Testing
Baseball v. Overton — 4:30 p.m.
Softball v. Hawkins — 5 p.m.

April 10

STAAR Testing
Area Track Meet @Cushing

April 11

Band Banquet — 6 p.m.

April 12

Area One-Act Play Contest
FFA @Leon County Livestock Show
Softball @Union Hill — 5 p.m.
V Baseball @Big Sandy — 6 p.m.

April 13

Area One-Act Play Contest
Regional Fishing Tournament
@Lake Tawakoni
FFA Alumni Crawfish Boil — 5 p.m.

April 15

Boys Regional Golf @Jacksonville
FFA @Area VI Vet Science CDE

April 16

Boys Regional Golf @Jacksonville
STAAR Testing
FFA @Area VI Commerce CDE
Baseball v. Harleton — 4:30 p.m.
Softball v. New Summerfield — 5 p.m.

April 17

Girls Regional Golf @Jacksonville

April 18

Girls Regional Golf @Jacksonville
STAAR Testing

April 19-20

FFA @State CDE Contests
Regional Track Meet @Palestine

April 19

Pre-K Trip to Tyler Zoo
Baseball @Hawkins — 4:30 p.m.
Softball @Carlisle — 5 p.m.

April 22

FFA District Speaking Contest @Gilmer
JV Baseball @Longview Christian
— 4:30 p.m.

April 23

STAAR Testing
V Baseball v. New Summerfield — 6 p.m.

April 24

Regional One-Act Play @Panola
STAAR Testing

April 25

Regional One-Act Play @Panola
FFA @Tarleton State CDE

April 26

Regional Academic UIL Meet @Panola
1st Grade Trip to Eastman Nature Center
2nd Grade Trip to Tyler Zoo
4th Grade Trip to Kilgore Oil Museum
FFA @SHSU State CDE
V Baseball v. Leverett's Chapel — 6 p.m.

April 27

Regional Academic UIL Meet @Panola
FFA @A&M State CDE

April 28

JH Musical — 2 p.m.

April 29

Boys State Golf @Austin
FFA District Degree Check @Big Sandy
JH Musical — 6 p.m.

April 30

Boys State Golf @Austin
TSIA2 Testing (High School)
HS Band Spring Concert

STAAR Tips

Simple Steps to Doing Better on Standardized Tests

- Get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast before each test
- Read the entire test
- Take breaks when you need them to stay focused
- Flag questions you're unsure on so you can look at them again with fresh eyes
- Believe in yourself — don't change an answer unless you have evidence it's wrong
- Make sure you answer every question
- Check your work and read through writing to find avoidable errors

Citizens Bank

We Stand For Your Success!

www.citizensbanktx.com

LUKE KIMBROUGH

GLADEWATER CEO

NMLS #924726

678 N MAIN ST. GLADEWATER, TX 75647
903.845.5566

Member FDIC
Equal Housing Lender





COLDWELL BANKER

(903) 470-0073

TIFFANY ANDERSEN
REALTOR

tandersen18@yahoo.com
1100 Judson Rd Suite 400
Longview, TX 75601

Southern Supply House

Cody Kirk
Inventory Manager

Cell: 903-985-1905
Office: 903-218-0573
Fax: 903-218-0578

cody@southernsupplyhouse.com

Dr. Angela Cox, D.C.

CHIROPRACTOR
COXCHIRO@HOTMAIL.COM

Cox Chiropractic
HEALTH, WELLNESS & WEIGHT-LOSS

112 N. LEE ST 903-374-2535
GLADEWATER, TX 75647 FAX: 855-897-8852

START YOUR DAY WITH REVIVE!
brew to revive

@brewtorevive
f i g

821 N. Main Street
Gladewater, Texas 75647

Thank You!
See our full menu and order ahead online, anytime!
WWW.BREWTOREVIVE.COM

CAPPUCCINO | AMERICANO | FRAPPE
ITALIAN CREAM SODA | ENERGY TEA
SMOOTHIE | SNOW CONES & MORE!

WINCO

MACHINE & REPAIR, INC.

Winn King

Office: (903) 844-2200
Fax: (903) 844-1834
Cell: (903) 720-2516

1011 E. Commerce Ave.
Gladewater, TX 75647
wking@wincomachine.com



WTIC

WELD TRAINING, INSPECTION & CONSULTING

We Love Our Lions!

WTIC is dedicated to creating engineered welding solutions that positively impact the bottom line through training, inspection, and consulting.

Contact: Joseph@weld-consulting.com
for more information.

ABC Auto Proudly Supports Union Grove Lions



Supporting East Texas Communities for Over 50 Years



28 Locations Throughout
East Texas & Shreveport-Bossier
www.abcauto.com
Your Neighborhood Parts Store!