New, Improved Coaches Show in Second Year

Union football fans who missed a game this year, or just wanted to relive an exciting Friday night, got the chance this fall thanks to a revamped Union Football Coach’s Show, hosted by coach Kirk Fridrich and producer Andy Erwin.

Union head football coach Kirk Fridrich and host Andy Erwin prepare for a taping of the Union Football Coach’s Show, a weekly playback of the varsity football game.

The classes are taught by Ed Taylor, a former KOTV Channel 6 photojournalist. According to Erwin, it's a great experience for students to work on the show as technical directors and audio engineers, as part of the production crew and as graphic artists and photographers.

Cross Country Team Makes History with ThisYear's Win

Steven Baker won Union's first individual boys' cross country title since 1976 and guided the Redskins to their first team crown in school history during the Class 5A state cross country championships this fall. Baker clocked a sizzling 15 minutes, 31.75 seconds in defeating runner-up Ryan Farrar of Broken Arrow by nine seconds.

In addition to Baker, Taylor Monaghan finished 3rd, David Jones finished 6th, Alex Baker 17th, Griffin Mason 18th, Collin Whitsett 22nd and Jordan Gullic 29th. Stevens Baker, Monaghan and Jones were named to the All-State team.

In girls' cross country, Sara Vaughn repeated her state win in Class 5A; she now has four state track titles. The girls' team won third in state. Vaughn clocked in at 11:33.48 despite a recent bout with walking pneumonia.

Members of the Union High School TeePee Crew showed Cedar Ridge fifth graders in Katrina Philpot's class how they assemble the famous Union TeePee for each football game.

Cedar Ridge Students Learn from Teepee Crew

Cedar Ridge fifth graders have been studying Lewis and Clark and the Native Americans they met along their historical journey. That discussion led to types of Native American housing and, specifically, teepees.

Students invited members of the High School's TeePee Crew for a visit, and the crew was happy to comply. They shared their research into Native American traditions surrounding the teepee and demonstrated how quickly they could assemble and take it down.

The Union teepee is the only one of its kind and displays the pride students and fans alike have in Oklahoma's rich Native American heritage. Union's teepee was created in 1994 by three senior boys who were former Boy Scouts. Since its debut at Tulsa Washington in the opening game of the 1994 football season, the teepee has appeared at every Redskins football game, including trips to Farmington, New Mexico; Clovis, California and Canton, Ohio.
There were few dry eyes in the audience after a former student talked about how the school had changed her life by providing a safe and drug-free place to study and grow. The school's commitment to excellence is well-known, and it continues to provide quality educational opportunities for its students. Last spring, the Speech team finished 78% of the patrons voting. That is incredible. And it's something we should celebrate.

Board Seat and Bond Issue to be Decided in 2008

The February 5, 2008, Board of Education election is for District #3, the seat currently held by Jim Williams. Candidates must file at the Tulsa County Election Board, 200 S. Denver, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on December 3, 4 or 5.

Qualifications include: resident of Board Zone #3 for at least six months; registered voter for at least six months at an address located in the boundaries of Board Zone #3; and/or a current employee of the school district or related within the second degree to a current district employee or member of the Board; high school diploma or equivalent.

On the Cover
The Union Alternative School Drum Line is a new class offered this year at the remodeled Union Alternative School. The school has received state and national awards and is internationally known for its excellence. Read more of the speeches from the ceremony at www.unionps.org.

Union Alternative High School started in 1995-96 with three teachers and 45 students as a school-within-the-school program at Union Intermediate High School. The school has received state and national awards and is internationally known for its excellence. Read more of the speeches from the ceremony at www.unionps.org.

Perfect Play
The Union Redkina Football Team capped a perfect season with district play with a 47-10 win over Stillwater on Friday, October 25. It was the Redskins’ 7th consecutive district football win. Their last district loss was 23-15 at Muskogee on Oct. 31, 1997.

Union Football Fever
On A National Scale
For many high school football watchers, the ongoing rivalry between Union and Jenks is a基础 on the national scene, so much so, that the rivalry became the subject of two different high school football television projects.

NFL Films broadcast a documentary and game highlights on the Versus network, based on the September 7, 2007, match-up in which Union hosted Jenks 43-6. Producers called it "the most exciting game we’ve ever filmed." In fact, they were so far as to say it was better than the college-level and professional games they have filmed.

The NFL show was broadcast twice on October 25, but it was not the only offering. Debuting on the very same day was the documentary, "The King of The Mountain," which概括ed the 2003 seasons of the Union and Jenks teams. That movie was shown in area cinemas through the use of insecticide-treated bed NETS, which can create a protective barrier against mosquitoes at night, when most transmission occurs. Just one bed net can keep an entire family safe from malaria transmission for up to four years.

All proceeds from admissions, T-shirt sales and concessions were donated to the Nothing But Nets organization.

Spirit Teams Bring Home Awards
This is the first cheer championship for Union since 1991," announced Amy McDonagh, assistant director of Athletics. "Way to go ladies!" Thirteen SA schools competed for the title. In order to win, Union had to beat Jenks, which Union did by nine points. Last year’s champions, Panama City North, took third.

The Union Varsity Cheer Squad is coached by Jamie Jackson-Cooper and Shannon Clark.

The cheerleaders also won an OSSA Academic Achievement Certificate, which is awarded to those teams having a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.25 and ranked in the upper one-third of their classification.

Nothing But Nets Helps Fight Malaria
Union High School's basketball team hosted teams from Broken Arrow, Bartlesville and Tulsa's Memorial High School in a fundraising tournament in November to fight malaria.

The event was called "Nothing But Nets" which funds children to battle the disease which is the leading killer of children under five. The money is raised through the use of insecticide-treated bed NETS, which can create a protective barrier against mosquitoes at night, when most transmission occurs. Just one bed net can keep an entire family safe from malaria transmission for up to four years.

All proceeds from admissions, T-shirt sales and concessions were donated to the Nothing But Nets organization.
Three Union High School seniors have been recognized as Commended Students as part of the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.

These students are Madison Dewell, daughter of Clyde and Crystal Dewell of Tulsa; Christopher Gill, son of Christopher and Cindy Gill of Tulsa; and Chelsea Rodak, daughter of Leon and Tammy Rodak of Tulsa.

A letter of commendation from Union High School and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, has been presented to the students.

The three Union students are among an estimated 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation who have been identified on the basis of their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2008 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students are placed among the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2008 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Earlier this spring 10 Union High students were named National Merit Semi-Finalists.

Union Raises $154,412 for United Way

Union Public Schools continued to show its support for the Tulsa Area United Way, raising a record $154,412.

"This is a 7.21 percent increase over last year," said Susan Crowder, chair of the fund-raising effort for the district. "We are pleased with the efforts of staff members, students and parents for coming together to show their support for the Tulsa Area United Way."

Crowder also noted that 91 employees were identified as Key Club donors, and Key Club donors are those who pledged to give $500 or more to the charity.

Communications Representatives for 2007-2008

Communication representatives are available to help you publicize your important events or to assist you in any way we can. If you have an event that you would like to have listed in the Communicator, please call or visit us.

Work Continues on Elementary #13 and Central Park at Union

Construction continues to wind around the area of the former 13th and North, 107th. Union School is in preparation for the opening of Union's 13th elementary school next fall.

Meanwhile, work on another anticipated project - Central Park at Union - continues even though much of it has been delayed due to the storm and the rain. The park is scheduled to open in the spring of 2008, Hargis said.

The second phase is anticipated to include outdoor classroom space, an expansion of the jogging/running track, basketball courts, a water feature and other park amenities, she said.

The Communicator's OUPS 097-436 is published monthly from September through June by the Union Public Schools. 8500 E. 51st Street, Tulsa, OK 74133-1926. It is printed by partners of the Union Public Schools District free of charge. The Communicator staff includes Andy Erwin, Julie Toney, Terri Thomsen and Joanne Yance. Periodical postage paid at Tulsa, OK. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Communicator, 8500 E. 51st Street, Tulsa, OK 74133-1926, or call 918-635-0915.

Gift Pick-Up

Parents who applied for the Union "I Care" Holiday Help Program can pick up their gifts and food at the UMC, 4028 E. 51st St., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on December 12, 13, and 14.

The "I Care" program is located on the West side of the UMC on the north side of the building near the football field. There will be directional signs posted.

The Communicator is the voice of the Union School District. It is published monthly from September through June by the Union Public Schools. Information in this report has been verified by the school district. The Communicator is available at the Union Public Schools Office, 8500 E. 51st Street, Tulsa, OK 74133-1926, or call 357-0915.

Three Union Seniors Named Commended Students

The Union varsity volleyball team was named Conference Champions this fall, while its coach, Chaddi McKeen, was named Coach-of-the-Year and senior Janda Meek was named MVP Most Valuable Player.

Players receiving All-Conference recognition included 1st Team: Jasmine Hayes, Jade Holman; 2nd Team: Allison Rucinski, Mkeola Wild and 3rd Team - Shawn Enskie, Courtnie Stammes and Lauren Taylor.

Several team members were also named Academic All-Conference recipients: Jasmine Hayes (middle blocker) and Jade Holman 2007-08 All-State Volleyball team. They are two of eight girls who were selected to the Large East Boats. As a State match will pit them against the West Large team next July.

Volleyball Team Named Champions

The Union varsity volleyball team was named Conference Champions this fall while its coach, Chaddi McKeen, was named Coach-of-the-Year and senior Janda Meek was named MVP Most Valuable Player.

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Walton Family Foundation Partners with USEF

Arvest Bank presented a $5,000 grant, on behalf of the Walton Family Foundation, to members of the Union Schools Education Foundation for the creation of a special "Wall of Fame" to recognize the front entrance of the Union Multipurpose Activity Center in Tulsa. A local artist will be commissioned to design one-of-a-kind mosaic tile wall, intended to help generate needed fundraising for projects and teacher grants in the Union Public Schools District. Remaining funds will be used to purchase materials and for the construction of the project.

"With this generous grant from the Walton Family Foundation, the Naming Rights Committee of the Union Schools Education Foundation will be able to reinvigorate the fund-raising campaign started in 2003," Coyle said.

The Walton Family Foundation is dedicated to giving back to the communities in which we serve, and we are proud to support the positive efforts being made by the Union Schools Education Foundation to support our schools," said Don Walker, president and CEO of Arvest Bank - Tulsa.

The fund-raising campaign was implemented as a way to increase the USEF endowment and build a stable base to support teachers in Union Schools with an emphasis on classroom teacher grants program. Funds distributed by the teacher grants program go toward enhancing learning opportunities for students, which could not be funded through normal means.

"Once the "Wall of Fame" design is completed, we will have a one-of-a-kind way to recognize donors for their contributions," Coyle said. "The Naming Rights Committee, composed of USEF Trustees: Debbie Powers, Steve Pittman, Sarah McLardy, Courtney Ellis and I, look forward to the completion of the "Wall of Fame," and the jump start that this fund raising program will allow us to achieve.

As part of the overall campaign, individual and group sponsorships can also have their name engraved on one or more of the 5,600 seats in the John Q. Hammons arena, or earn the naming rights for one of the large meeting rooms.

Speakers Talk to Focus Students at Union Intermediate

Two guest speakers - a director in the Governor's office and a former football player - spoke to the girls while Matt Monger, currently with Merrill Lynch and formerly with the Jets and Bills, spoke to Focus students at Union Intermediate. High School about overcoming obstacles.

L'Tova Knighton, director of Governor Brad Henry's Tulsa office, spoke to the girls, while Matt Monger, currently with Merrill Lynch and formerly with the Jets and Bills, spoke to the boys.

The students are part of the new Focus program that began this year aimed at seventh, eighth and ninth graders. The program is designed to help these students focus on academics - English, math, science and social sciences - and complete required classes for graduation.

Exercise specialists visited with students about how they can help themselves to become healthier and to be role models for their peers. A special message was delivered by the girls to the boys.

After the six-week course, the students had the opportunity to choose another weight prevention program to accommodate their schedule and diet. Some students are writing a cover letter, developing a resume, the proper way to conduct salary surveys and learning about right to work and equal employment opportunities.

"We are planning on 20 to 25 companies and organizations attending the Career Fair. We are including the state universities, community colleges, the military recruiters also. It should be a great event," Green said.

Union Schools Career Fair in December

The Union 8th Grade Career Fair will be held on December 4, 2007. Many employers from all around Tulsa are being invited to attend and present information about their companies and career opportunities to students at the Union 8th Grade Center.

Our goal is to help students make the connection between education and the working world as early as possible so they have a better understanding of how the quality of their education relates to their future career options," said teacher Roger Green, who is coordinating the event. The 8th Grade Career Center is working in conjunction with Tulsa Technology Center and the 8th Grade PTA to host this event.

Each academic department at the 8th Grade Center is developing a classroom activity to coincide with the Career Fair. Some examples are writing a cover letter, developing a resume, the proper way to complete a job application, conducting salary surveys and learning about right to work and equal employment opportunities.

"We are planning on 20 to 25 companies and organizations attending the Career Fair. We are including the state universities, community colleges, the military recruiters also. It should be a great event," Green said.
Parents attended a special forum this month, community support and volunteerism but for the leadership and active sponsors, Williams, Saint Francis, and Bank of Oklahoma. Involvement of Williams employee and Foundation president Patrick Coyle. He worked tirelessly alongside the auction committee for many weeks. Williams also provided printing for our catalog and provided in-kind contributions. Saint Francis Hospital-South and Bank of Oklahoma were additional major sponsors for the event.

The auction was succeeded by Cindy Morrison, XTU's attorney, and sportscaster Mike Ziggenhorn, both Union parents. Auctioneer was Ryan Deaton. Some of the more than 50 items that were purchased included a vacation stay at the King Davis House in Crested Butte Colorado; a designer, split-D diamond and ruby necklace from Diamond Jewellers; and a diamond and silver necklace from Moody's Jewelers. Dallas Cowboy game tickets donated by CMW Financial; OU Football tailgate experience with bundler Sid Stroud and bundler's wife Steve Owens, Billy Sims and Jason White. White-Black game was carded. GTR Newpaper Advertising; golf packages, airline tickets, iPod with docking station, Sports Tickets, home décor, hotel stays, and dozens of baskets filled with goods and creatively decorated by classic rooms and schools throughout the district.

Joining Co-Chairman Almon and McIlwraith, committee members included Judi Mesi, Decorations; Laura Bell, Marsha Mathis and Lori Krizman, School Bands; Sharon Forbes, Auction Setup; Georgia Steele and Bob Mathis, Acquisitions; Jane Holt and Sarah McIlwraith, School District Donations; Beverly Laubach, Invitations; Debra Barlow, Reservation; Donna Wooster, Volunteers; Brent Carroll, Tina Beckman, Barbara Collins, Renee Hill, Lisa Carroll, Retail/Commercial; Vanessa Foster, Terry Almon and Kim Nichols, Corporate Sponsors. In addition to the bundle committee, donors also included: teachers, parents, administrators and teachers were included in collecting items for sale at the auction. Sarah McIlwraith said, "The auction's success is reliant on the support of volunteer effort and the support of the community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of them.

In addition to Williams, Saint Francis Hospital South and Bank of Oklahoma, corporate sponsors included American Fidelity; Hancock; Public Service Company of Oklahoma; AAP Kwik Trip; Robert and Jennifer Wolfe; TCCU; Celebrity Attractions; Rosemont, Tiet and Rispold; KSL Architect; AETNA; Aetna Life; CMW Financial; Curtis Restaurant Supply; Library Design Group; Colonial; Hines/Works, McNeese, Peters, Thompson & Stahl PC; McClellan, Hixon, Longwell and Acord; Public Service Credit Union; Oklahoma Insurance Agency; Saint John Health Systems; Crafton; Full Sparks; Stanfield & O'Dell; TAC; Tiger Natural Gas; Telle; and Terry Almon; ASCO, Inc.; ATST, Allstate; TAC; Tiger Natural Gas; Telle; and Terry Almon; ASCO, Inc.; ATST, Allstate; and the Renegade Regiment.

The auction committee was a part of the play but never the main attraction. The Renegade Regiment finished the fall season second in the state; however, they did not win the title. The Renegade Regiment also earned Straight 1 ratings at OSSAA Marching Contest and the students earned a position in Finals Competition and took 7th place out of 50 bands at the St. Louis Bands of America Super Regional.

In the midst of all this, the Regiment successfully hosted the 25th anniversary of the Regenerative Review. Perhaps your mom told you never to talk with your mouth full. But acting? Three different drama classes at Union Intermediate kept up with the fun real food during their fall production of The Foreigner.

Intermediate High Presents The Foreigner

The students have to stay in character. "The characters are asked to eat apples, fried eggs, grits in two scenes, chicken, potato salad, broccoli, muffins, orange juice and apple juice (brandi)," she said. "Carrers are a part of the play but never eaten."

If the food is not cooked well or tastes different, they can't let it show during the play, she said, admitting she herself has never tried grits. "I don't really know what they are." In The Foreigner, the character Charlie visits a rural fishing lodge with his friend, Frygg. Charlie is a pathologically shy person who never speaks with strangers. So Frygg, as a friend, acts as an intermediary for Charlie. When Frygg is asked how much he is paid, Frygg says, "I'm happy to do it because you're Charlie and I understand you."

Tulsakids Magazine Honors Union Employee

Pamela Smith, a child nutrition employee at Cereal Elementary, was recently honored in Tulsakids magazine as one of the magazine’s 20th anniversary.

The magazine decided to honor 20 Tulsaans who use their talents everyday to help families. Smith was recognized for her 25 years of service to the Child Nutrition Program. She was honored because she "spends ‘nearly every waking hour either volunteering or working to make a difference in the lives of kids.’"
From the Elementaries

Jarman Swim Team Wins Meet

The swim team from Jarman Elementary School won the 2nd Annual Union Elementary School Meet this fall. All elementary students (2nd grade through 5th grade) who signed up swam for their elementary schools. Last year, Andersen Elementary was the winner and was awarded the trophy to display all year at their school.

Boevers Receives Help from the Junior League of Tulsa

Boevers has been chosen by the Junior League of Tulsa as one of its four "Red A Day Impact" projects for 2007-2008. The volunteers will be helping with an incentive pizza party for students who meet their quarterly reading goals.

The $200 grant will buy plenty of pizza for students who have met their Accelerated Reading (AR) goals. Assistant Principal Justin Porter said, "Junior League volunteers are also going to redecorate our AR trophy case and purchase a digital picture frame for the display," he said. "The frame will have pictures of kids who have attained their AR goals."

Accelerated Reader is a point system based on kids' reading levels. Every student in the school has a different level based on their independent reading levels.

Boevers kindergartener Shakira Adams juggles her messy hair while her dad Rodney Adside reads to her. Pictured in back are classmate Jordan Henry and Taylor Dan. In back are Megan Roberts, Jesse Guimond, and Taylor.

Boevers fourth grader Emma Cram crosses her eyes just like her superhero alien. The alien was part of a project in which students wrote letters from the point of view of an outer space alien and then they created the alien using pumpkins.
Union Schools Education Foundation Event a Huge Success!

The Union Schools Education Foundation (USEF) annual Auction and Dinner was a great success netting $101,890 in income - a record-breaking year for the sale. Terry Almon and Sarah McBryde served as Auction Co-Chairs and led a committee that worked tirelessly for several months selecting sponsorships, acquiring donations and organizing a fun and profitable evening with all monies raised used for the Foundation's mission of funding classroom and program grants.

The committee's hard work resulted in a filled-to-capacity crowd at the Tulsa Radisson. Hotel. A donor dinner ready and willing to buy hundreds of donated items. It is clear that the committee's goals were not only met but exceeded. Citing corporate sponsorship, community support and volunteer commitment as not only but well exceeded. Citing corporate sponsorship, community support and volunteer commitment as the key to the auction's success, Terry Almon gave special recognition to the title and platinum donors. It is clear that the committee's hard work and dedication do indeed pay off! With the increased participation in classrooms, libraries and middle school band classes, we're really looking forward to great things.

The auction was emceed by Cindy Morrison, KTUL anchor, and sportscaster Mike Zielengan, both Union parents. Auctioneer was Ryan Denon. Some of the more than 50 items that were purchased included a vacation stay at the King Davis House in Crested Butte, Colorado; a designer and split-D-U diamond and ruby necklace from David Jewelers, a diamond and diamond necklace from Moody's jewelers, Dallas, Cowboy Casino broadside tickets donated by CM Financial; OU Football Helmet signed by John Talley and the players; Steve Owens, Billy Sims and Justin Wilson White; Quik Trip gas cards; GTR Newpaper Advertising; golf packages, airline tickets, iPod with Rockin station Sports tickets, home decor, hotel stays, and dozens of baskets filled with goods and creatively decorated by class rooms and schools throughout the district.

Joining Co-Chairman Almon and McBryde committee members included Judi Meier, Decorations; Laura Bell, Marsha Mathis and Lorri Krisman, School Raffles; Sharon Forbes, Auction Setup; Georgia Steele and Bob Mathis, Acquisitions; Jane Holt and Sarah McBryde, School District Donations; Beverly Laubach, Invitations; Debra Barlow, Reservations; Donna Wester, Volunteers; Brent Carroll, Tina Brockin, Barbara Collins, Rene Hill, Lisa Carroll, Ringold; Kathleen and Terry Almon and Kim Nichols, Corporate Sponsorships. In addition to the committee, donors, auction participants, parents, administrators and teachers were involved in collecting items for sale at the auction. Sarah McBryde said, "The auction's success is reliant on the hard work of volunteer effort and the support of the community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of them.

In addition to Williams, Saint Francis Hospital South and Bank of Oklahoma, Oklahoma corporate sponsors included American Fidelity; Franco, Public Service Company of Oklahoma; AT&T; Quik Trip, Daisy; and Jennifer Wolfe, TTCU; Celebrity Dinner, Rosenberg, Tist and Rispold; KSJ Architects; AETNA, Avast Ann; CM Financial; Curtis Restaurant Supply; Leawood Design Group; Jaclyn Mehan, Peters, Thompson & Jail; PC; McIlrath, Holmes, Longwell and Aford; Paul Revere; UN, United Insurance Agency; Saint John Health Systems; Crafton; Full Spark; Standfield & Odell, PC; T & C, TASC, Tiger Natural Gas, Sneed and Terry Almon; APCO, Inc.; AT&T, BellSouth, Travelers Insurance; Coopers & Lybrand, C&L, Wells Fargo, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield; Chandelier Insurance; Charles Campbell Insurance; Cole and Reed; Hill; Education First Credit Union; First Advantage; Gluck; Kicenape; the Oklahoman; The Oklahoman; Patrick Cole and Robby Laubach. Committee members not present were Georgia Steele, June Holt, Larralyn Simon, Debra Barlow, Terry Almon and Sarah McBryde.

Forum Held to Review Transportation and Curriculum Changes

Parents attended a special forum this fall to review recent changes in laws that could affect the way students with special needs are transported, as well as their curriculum and testing requirements.

The underlying goal of the changes is to make sure that students with disabilities receive the same opportunities as their peers. Parents at the forum were asked to talk with their mouth full. But acting? That's another story. But talking? That's a nightmare.

In the midst of all this, the Regiment continued its successful year. The Regiment finished the fall season with the students taking 2nd and 3rd place in the district.

Intermediate High Programs The Foreigner


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A local artist will be commissioned to design the one-of-a-kind mosaic tile wall, intended to help generate needed fundraising for projects and teacher grants in the Union Public Schools District. Remaining funds will be used to purchase signage and frames for the construction of the project.

United States Army Reserve

Walton Schools

The Tulsa Union County Health Department has been working with students at Rosa Parks as part of the "It's All About Kids" program - a prevention program for children focusing on reducing obesity, improving school performance and building decision-making skills.

"Part of the program includes teaching our students about nutrition and physical fitness," said school nurse Judy Ford. But it also includes a component to involve teachers, encouraging them in a related program called the Model Fitness Program.

Speakers Talk to Focus Students at Union Intermediate

Two guest speakers - a director in the Governor's office and a former football player for the Jets and the Bills - spoke to Focus students at Union Intermediate High School about overcoming obstacles.

L'Toya Knighten, director of Governor Brad Henry's Tulsa office, spoke to the girls, while Matt Monger, currently with Merrill Lynch and formerly with the Jets and Bills, spoke to the boys.

The students are part of the new Focus program that began this year aimed at seventh, eighth and ninth graders. The program is designed to help these students focus on academics - English, math, science and social sciences - and complete required classes for graduation.

Sixth/Seventh Grade Center Honored by Talent Identification Program

The Duke University Talent Identification Program has named the Union Jr./7th Grade Center as the number one school in Oklahoma for participation in this program, Principal Steve Pittman said.

Jay Baldwin, director of the Identification and Support Services office, said the program, Pittman, "is a significant accomplishment and does not occur without hardworking and dedicated staff.

More than 100 seventh graders chose to participate in the 2007 Duke University Talent Identification Program. The students are part of the overall campaign of the ACT or SAT college entrance exam.

Eighth Grade Hosting Career Fair in December

The Union 8th Grade Career Fair will be held on December 4, 2007. Major employers from all around Tulsa are being invited to attend and present information about their companies and career opportunities to students at the Union 8th Grade Center.

"Our goal is to help students make the connection between education and the working world as early as possible so they have a better understanding of how the quality of their education affects their future career options," said teacher Roger Green, who is coordinating the event. The 8th Grade Center is working in conjunction with Tulsa Technology Center and the 8th Grade FTA to host this event.

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"We are planning on 20 to 25 companies and organizations attending the career fair. We are including the state university, we are including military recruiters also. It should be a great event," Green said.

For more information on the Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition, visit www.fitkidsok.org or call 405-236-5437.

Union seventh-grader Ally Noe, at left, with Madison Weiland, was one of five students who won spot purchases with medal specialist Tracy Geffert, for the school's "Spinning Staves - Science Fair Collection." Funds raised from the competition helped raise $1,500 for a grant received by the Union Schools Education Foundation last spring.
Three Shawn Ensley, These are three examples:ing to implement them well that cause
It
Public Schools is currently required to
spend hundreds of thousands of dollars
the biggest problems locally. Union
1. Last year's teacher pay raise that
2. Fixing a broken computer
3. The new financial literacy requirement
for graduation is required beginning next year with no fund
ning for teachers, training, or cur­
icum. It is not that the ideas of salary increas­
s, on-line testing, or financial literacy are not worthy. It is that those
good ideas cannot be accomplished without additional funding to implement
them thoroughly. Without additional funding, our class sizes rise and our flexibili­
diminishes because our dollars are directed toward meeting state mandated
mandates.
In order to communicate effectively with
districts regarding their unique student population and
staff and to develop standards,
districts to make decisions regard­
ing the district to use local funds to
did not come with full funding leav­
ing the district to use local funds to
make up the difference for teachers
and support employees;
least one representative has been selected for each school or department
who applied for the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.
Three students
are Madison
dowell, daugh­
ter of Clyde and Crystal Dowell of Tulsa, Chris­topher
Gill, son of Christopher and Cindy Gill of Tulsa, and Chelsea
Rodak, daughter of Leann and Tammy Rodak of Tulsa.
A letter of commendation from Union
High School and the National Merit
Scholarship Corporation, which con­
ducts the program, has been presented
the students.
The three Union students are among
students who entered the 2008 competi­
which con­
Commend­
will
be formed this
school.
Senior Scholarship Program.
Sixth/Seventh Grade: Margaret Lewis
Eighth Grade: Laura Reynolds
Intermediate: Cindy Brown
Alternative: Melissa Lent
High School: Mary Gerlach
and Amy Ritter
Evening/Summer Academy:
Chico Harris
Touching: Don Ramey, Dr. Kirt
Hartzler and JoAnn Bodenstab
CFO/Finance: Melva Carter
Technique: Margaret Lewis
Human Resources: Andrea Holcomb
Community Education: Pam McColl
Support services: Jan Shangraw
Child Nutrition: Velon Brown
Transportation: Brenda Sharp
Operations: Betty Dunn
Fine Arts: Phyllis Whisman
Athletic: Trudy Stone
and Rhonda Duke
Art: Amy McCreary
and Sandy Hatley
Varsity Cheer: Carla Dickinson
JV Cheer: Marc Cross
9th Grade Cheer: Mary Jean Ogle
8th Grade Cheer: Kathryn Young
Highlights: Greg Whisman
Shining Stars: Shannon Abbott
Union Elite: Jim Flasche
Varsity Pom: Aaron Davis
10th Grade Pom: Dea Bailey
9th Grade Pom: Kriste Stretch
9th Grade Pom: Ashlee Stanley
Hs Band/Band Parents: Harold Driver
Graduation Celebration: Tessa McKee
Help them help you share your news.
call them at your upcoming
involvement in the Union Union
Liver 133, and Central Park at Union
Construction continues to wind around
the area of East 86th and South, 1078
in preparation for the opening of Union's
13th elementary school next fall.

On the 70,000 square-foot facility
therein was the construction of the new gymnasium
classroom building, as well as water distribution and
work on the foundation and structural steel. As the school
mears its opening day, a committee will be formed this
spring to decide on a new name for the school.

Meanwhile, work on another anticipated
project - Central Park at Union continues
although much of it has been
behind the scenes as administrators work to
accommodate students and faculty, as we work on
preparatory work needed before actual
construction can take place.

The new park will be located behind the
6th/7th grade wing of the new Union
building and will replace the old tennis courts
near 86th and near 91st. The first phase of
the project, which has already been
approved, will build a new 12-lane, 400-meter
track, and design and build on the
spray field. There will be
other improvements that will be done in phases
which will begin in the fall of
2007.

The second phase is anticipated to
include outdoor classroom space, an extension of the
biking / running track, a basketball court, a water feature
and other park amenities, she said.

Gift Pick-Up
Parents who applied for the Union "I Care" Holiday Help Program can pick up
t heir gifts and food at the UMC, 4730 S. Mingo Road. The gift delivery
is 8 a.m. on December 12, 13 and 14.

For more information, call 585-3500.

the Communicator
The Communicator is published monthly and distributed to all
parents of students in grades 1 to 12.

USPS 097-430 is published monthly, beginning in October and
by the Union Public Schools.
November 2007 - December 2007
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November-December 2007

Union Alternative High School started in 1995-96 with three teachers and 45 students as a school within the school program at Union Intermediate High School. The school has received state and national awards and is internationally known for its excellence. Read some of the speeches from the ceremony at www.unionva.org.

On the Cover

The Union Alternative School Drum Line is a new class offered this year at the remodeled school. The band has already won a gold rating and will be performing in other local schools.

Principal Richard Storm said, "I wouldn't be where I am now if it weren't for this staff and this school." Federline came back to the school and talked fondly of her time and how she regretted her educational footing thanks to the dedicated staff. Now, Federline is in her ninth year as a successful employment coordinator during the special dedication.

Superintendent Dr. Cathy Burden and Board President Ed Payton praised the work and leadership of everyone involved at the school, which re-opened this year to remodeled facilities and the addition of a middle school program in a 51.8 million project approved by voters in 2006. The school features separate facilities for high school students and middle school students, a new cafeteria, expanded computer labs, a greenhouse and more classroom space.

The dedication also featured the debut of the school's new drum line under the direction of Board Zone #3 member Michael Murray, as well as student dancers. The dedication also featured the debut of the school's new drum line under the direction of Board Zone #3 member Michael Murray, as well as student dancers.

On October 25, but it was not the only event of the year. NFL Films broadcast a documentary and game highlights on the Versus network based on the September 7, 2007, match-up in which Union hosted Jenks 43-42. Producers called it "the most exciting game we've ever filmed." In fact, they said so far as it may be better than the college-level and professional games they have filmed.

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New, Improved Coaches Show in Second Year

Union football fans who missed a game this year, or just wanted to relive an exciting Friday night, got the chance this fall thanks to a revamped Union Football Coach's Show, hosted by coach Kirk Fridrich and producer Andy Erwin.

Union head football coach Kirk Fridrich and host Andy Erwin prepare for a taping of the Union Football Coach's Show, a weekly playback of the varsity football games.

The classes are taught by Ed Taylor, a former KOTV Channel 6 photojournalist. According to Erwin it's a great experience for students to work on the show as technical directors and audio engineers, as part of the production crew and as graphic artists and photographers.

Cedar Ridge Students Learn from Teepee Crew

Cedar Ridge fifth graders have been studying Lewis and Clark and the Native Americans they met along their historical journey. That discussion led to types of Native American housing and, specifically, teepees.

Students invited members of the High School's Teepee Crew for a visit, and the crew was happy to comply. They shared their research into Native American traditions surrounding the teepee and demonstrated how quickly they could assemble and take it down.

The Union teepee is the only one of its kind and displays the pride students and fans alike have in Oklahoma's rich Native American heritage. Union's teepee was created in 1994 by three senior boys who were former Boy Scouts. Since its debut at Tulsa Washington in the opening game of the 1994 football season, the teepee has appeared at every Redskins football game, including trips to Farmington, New Mexico, Clovis, California and Canton, Ohio.

Cross Country Team Makes History with This Year's Win

Steven Baker won Union's first individual boys' cross country title since 1976 and guided the Redskins to their first team crown in school history during the Class 5A state cross country championships this fall. Baker clocked a sizzling 15 minutes, 31.75 seconds in defeating runner-up Ryan Farrar of Broken Arrow by nine seconds.

In addition to Baker, Taylor Monaghan finished third, David Jones finished sixth, Alex Baker 17th, Griffin Mason 18th, Collin Whitsett 22nd and Jordan Gullic 29th. Steven Baker, Monaghan and Jones were named to the All-State team.

In girls' cross country, Sara Vaughn repeated her state win in Class 5A; she now has four state track titles. The girls' team won third in state. Vaughn clocked in at 11:33.48 despite a recent bout with walking pneumonia.

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