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THE COMMUNICATOR

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 2000

Union Teacher One of Six Oklahomans Honored with Milken Award

Theresa Kiger, a teacher at Grove Elementary School, was recently named as an outstanding educator by the Milken Family Foundation headquartered in Santa Monica, Calif.

The annual Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award recognizes teaching excellence in America's schools. Kiger is one of only six Oklahoma teachers chosen to receive this year's award.

Kiger was surprised by announcement of the recognition and its accompanying \$25,000 award during a school assembly on October 4. Among the dignitaries there for the presentation were State Senator Jerry Smith, State Superintendent Sandy Garrett and a number of administrators from the State Department of Education.

Grove principal Angela Bauer nominated Kiger for the award for her role in developing a pilot program for a multi-age classroom, incorporating a mixed-age group of first and second grade children who stay with the same teacher for more than one year. The pilot, implemented in 1996, now serves as a model for the entire district. Kiger also presents annual workshops on the multiage concept for all new teachers in the Union district.

While Kiger was honored by the recognition, she said there are many people

responsible for inspiring her to become a better teacher.

"I felt like the honor was not just for me, but had to do more with my fellow teachers as well as the school district," she said. "Because Union is so supportive in encouraging innovative teaching, the pilot program was well-received. One person could never accomplish what we've done here; we worked as a team to make it possible."

In addition to presenting Kiger with a financial award, the Milken Foundation will provide her with continuing opportunities to serve as a facilitator and consultant for other teaching professionals.

"I've been given an awesome opportunity to promote the Union School District

and its innovative teaching programs," she said, explaining that she has already begun to share information, literature and studies with educators across the country.

"Receiving this award makes me think of a football coach," Kiger said. "Victory is achieved through the efforts of everyone on the team. That's how I feel about the recognition--it validates everything we've been doing to put children first and to make sure we provide them with a firm educational foundation through their early years in school."

On the cover: Theresa Kiger is joined by Grove student Katelynn Johnson as she accepts the Milken Educator Award. Upper right, students Kristin Williams, Mikelia Jackson, Grant Shaw, Angelina Brown and Brandy Martin volunteer to illustrate Kiger's prize winnings.

Union Dedicates New Elementary School

Union Public Schools showcased its newest, state-of-the-art school--Moore Elementary School, 800 N. Butternut Pl., Broken Arrow--during dedication ceremonies October 4.

Attending the program and touring the new building were State Superintendent Sandy Garrett and several state and district education officials. Greeting guests were Union Superintendent Dr. Cathy Burden, Union Board of Education President Dere Rader and Moore Principal Sandi Calvin.

The \$7 million dollar construction project, which was built as the result of a bond proposition passed by Union district voters in March 1998, took approximately three years from planning to completion. Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted on June 1, 1999, and Moore opened its doors to 530 students on the first day of school, August 17.

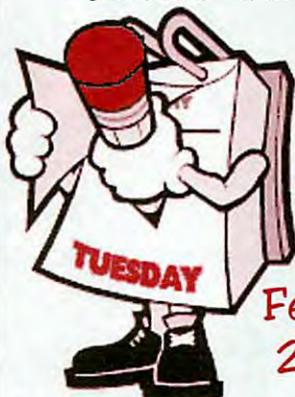
Moore Elementary is named for Marshall T. Moore, a farmer and landowner in the area who served from 1918 to 1933 as a member of Union's first school board. Moore was partially responsible for the consolidation of four one-room schools into a unified school district.

The new school, designed by Dewberry Design Group, features unique architectural elements, large classrooms and a full-size gymnasium that will be utilized by students across the entire district. Natural lighting and high ceilings create an open feeling to the classrooms, which are centered in six pods of five classrooms each. Other classroom amenities include lockers, sinks and drinking fountains. Skylights and raised roofs are focal points of the media center, art and music rooms. Light fixtures resembling blue clouds and a glass wall overlooking the traffic circle highlight the cafeteria.



Ryan Moore, the 2-year-old son of Jeff and Laryn Moore, enjoys a piece of cake during a reception honoring the dedication of Moore Elementary School. Ryan is the great-grandson of the school's namesake, Marshall T. Moore.

The Union Bond Issue,
Board Race & Millage
Election will be



Feb. 13,
2001

Watch for details in the next
Communicator!

Dr. Burden's Leadership Reaches Beyond the District

When the media or state and local groups want a public school perspective, Union Superintendent **Dr. Cathy Burden** is often the first person they call. She speaks on behalf of Public Education in Oklahoma and is considered an expert on several topics: Leadership and Change, Business and Community Involvement, Early Childhood and Parenting, Crisis Prevention and Intervention, School Finance and Strategic Planning.

In September she was one of the keynote speakers and workshop leaders at the Oklahoma Press Association and State Library Association's First Amendment Congress.

"Public schools are at the storm center of controversy involving religious differences, while they are also the principal institutions charged with transmitting the identity and mission of the United States from one generation to another," she told the group. "School is the marketplace of ideas. It must also be most respectful and protective of the diversity of individuals in our society...a fair, neutral broker to make it a level playing field so that all children, regardless of their ethnic, religious or economic backgrounds, have a chance at the American Dream."

Dr. Burden is often recognized for her work as a board member for the National Conference of Community and Justice, Tulsa Area United Way, Leadership Tulsa and the Oklahoma Business & Education Coalition. Her responsibilities continue with her involvement in the United Suburban Schools Association; Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce; Junior Achievement Board of Directors; and the Ethics Committee of the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators.

the Communicator

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Dr. Cathy Burden tapes a Public Service Announcement promoting drug and alcohol awareness and prevention programs.

Union "Pitches In" for Day of Caring

Twenty district employees rolled up their sleeves and helped where needed during the United Way "Day of Caring," a kick-off to the annual United Way fund drive, on Friday, September 8.

Joining with other representatives of businesses and corporations from across Tulsa, administrators, teachers and staff members pitched in to perform clerical, maintenance and gardening chores for United Way agencies across the area.

Union employees participating were: **Dr. Cathy Burden**, **Clark Ogilvie**, **Kirt Hartzler** and **Janie Froman**, Education Service Center; **Doug Nelson**, Alternative Education Center; **Bill Padgett**, High School; **Becky Pollard**, Intermediate High; **Monta Ewing**, 8th Grade Center; and **Joshlyn Harris**, 6th-7th Grade Center. Representatives of the elementary schools included: **Cindy Vanderpool**, Andersen; **Barbara Crawford**, Boevers; **Brenda Rollins**, Briarglen; **Mary Buck**, Cedar Ridge; **Linda Paget**, Clark; **Melodie Cole**, Darnaby; **Heather Cole**, Grove; **Kathy Bailey**, Jarman; **Jean Thomason**,

McAuliffe; **Diane Fisher**, Moore; and **Judy Sims**, Peters.

The Union employees served four United Way agencies, including the Credit Counseling Center, Hospice of Green Country, the Salvation Army and the Girl Scouts of Magic Empire Council.



Dr. Cathy Burden, Jean Thomason and Diane Fisher perform garden chores at the Credit Counseling Center.

Employees Push Fund Drive Over The Top

In October, Union employees completed their most enthusiastic and successful Tulsa Area United Way campaign ever, donating a record-breaking \$86,592.34 to charitable organizations within the community.

The district surpassed its goal of \$70,000, increasing last year's donation of \$64,653.12 by over 34%.

Leading the district in most dollars donated was the Intermediate High

School, followed by Jarman Elementary, the 6th/7th Grade Center and the High School.

School and department campaigns included friendly competitions such as an ugly feet contest at Jarman, a cutest baby contest at Peters, a "Pie in the Eye" event at Cedar Ridge and a "Kiss the Pig" challenge between principals at the Intermediate and High School.

Many departments hosted brunches and dinners, with the Operations Department's annual fish fry leading the way in most funds donated at the Education Service Center. Human Resources and Finance teamed up to sell "Go Joes," sloppy joe sandwiches which they delivered to their customers throughout the district.

A total of 1,309 Union district employees participated in the 2000 Tulsa Area United Way "When Love Finds U" campaign.



Chelden Love, a student in Nancy Szela's first grade class at Boevers Elementary, enjoys the doughnut she purchased during the school's fund-raiser for United Way.

Union Welcomes New Administrators

Gary Greenhill has joined Union Public Schools as the Director of Transportation. Greenhill, a 1981 graduate of Southern Nazarene University, comes to Union from the Putnam City School District in Oklahoma City where he supervised a department of approximately 150 employees in a district with student enrollment of 21,000.



Gary Greenhill

Greenhill says his transition into Union has gone smoothly. "The thing that has impressed me most about Union is the way everybody has jumped in to make me feel welcome and to help in any situation," he said "It's the camaraderie that has made me feel welcome -- it's made me glad to be here."



Halley Garner is the new principal of Boevers Elementary. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Texas and holds a master's degree in educational administration from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.



Halley Garner

Coming to Union from Jenks Public Schools, Garner has served as both an elementary and middle school principal. "I'm pleased to be here," she said. "The Union school system is progressive and keeps in the forefront what will best serve its students."

"They told me that Boevers was like a family--that's a true statement," she said. "Everyone here has worked to create a warm and friendly atmosphere, and that has created an environment that is conducive to learning."

Mark Your Calendars!



Feb. 10, 2001

Union Schools Education Foundation Celebration

at the Sheraton Tulsa
7:00 P.M.
Silent Auction
8:00 P.M.
Dinner

RSVP Deadline January 19, 2001
For more information call Lesa Clark, 494-5917 or Tracy Rehorn, 492-2733

Request for Non-Release of Personally Identifiable Information

It has been the practice of the district to use student names in yearbooks, student honor rolls, athletic programs, as well as in electronic and print publications. It has also been the practice of the district to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and the Department of Human Services; to provide student names and addresses to institutions of post-secondary education who desire to notify students of educational and scholarship opportunities; and to the armed services for recruitment purposes.

The district will continue to disclose student information for these purposes and other similar educational purposes unless parents object in writing to the use of the student information in this manner. Forms for this purpose may be obtained from the Director of Communications, 459-3305.



Andersen Elementary student Griffith Poindexter ponders his next move while preparing to compete in a districtwide chess tournament. Elementary students from across the school district competed in a team chess event, hosted by Andersen, on November 4.

Eating School Lunches Can Be Profitable

The Food Service Department celebrated National School Lunch Week by hosting a variety of unique activities.

In honor of the event, five mountain bicycles were awarded to elementary students who participate in the school lunch nutrition program. The winners were determined by a drawing, and the bicycles were presented to the following children: Cody Thomas, Briarglen; Michael Deshaies, Andersen; Ashleigh Williams, Grove; Samantha Martin, Peters; and April Broccard, McAuliffe.



Union 6th/7th Grade Center cafeteria employees, from left, Paulette Wilcoxon, Brooks Tedford and Cissy Althouse, celebrate National School Lunch Week by dressing in '50's "Rock 'N Roll" duds.

Other activities included theme days at each of the elementary and secondary cafeterias. Celebratory menus included "Rock 'N Roll Day," "Sports Day," "Crazy Hat Day" and "ABC Day." The employees had as much fun as the kids.

Ideas To Help Change the Way We Do Business

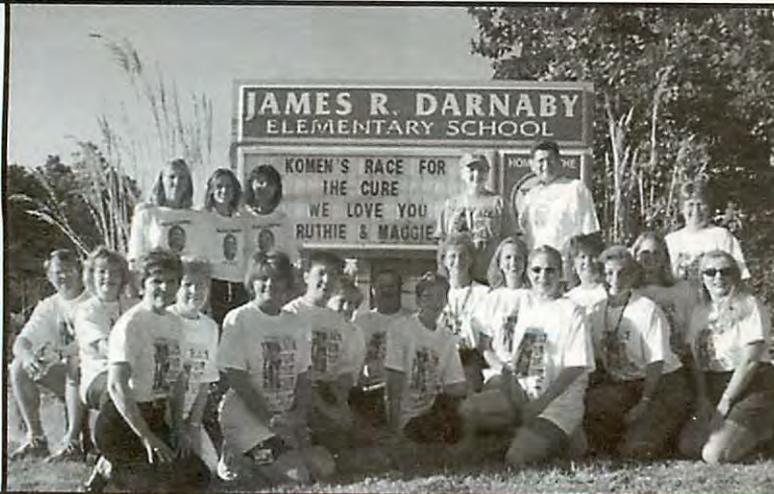
Two intensive days of sharing opinions and ideas recently netted a list of critical issues for the district to tackle within the next five years. The "Re-Focus on Results" strategic planning process involved nearly 100 participants, including Board of Education members, parents, teachers, administrators, staff, community leaders and a group of Union Alternative, Intermediate and High School students. The group met on November 2 and 4.

Participants agreed that the following

concerns should be considered district priorities: academic focus; alternative education and programs for at-risk students; state and private funding; secondary curriculum and delivery system; student support services; learning opportunities for all; partnerships and coalition building; and staff development.

The next step will be for action teams to study the issues and develop a roadmap for implementation over the next five years.

Over 30 faculty and staff members of Darnaby Elementary School participated in the Susan G. Komen "Race for the Cure" on Sept. 16 at OSU-Tulsa. The group, "Ruthie's Racers," walked and ran in a show of support for fellow teachers Ruthie Zetik and Maggie Herriman.



Ice Route Information

Each winter, the Union Public Schools transportation department is responsible for developing routes in which school buses may travel safely during inclement winter weather.

"Ice routes" are used when weather is such that buses should not attempt to travel hilly areas. The Union School District ice routes affect the area between Yale and Sheridan from 76th to 91st streets South.

Students living in this area have received ice route maps for their respective buses, and may use whatever stop is most convenient for them under these bad weather conditions. Stop times will be as close as possible to the posted time; however, delays are to be expected.

When ice routes are to be used or school is cancelled the information will be released to all television and radio stations no later than 6:00 A.M. Parents may also call the Union Public Schools Weatherline at 459-3365 for school closings or ice route information.

Grove Turns 25!

Grove Elementary is celebrating its 25th birthday all year long! The anniversary year was kicked-off with a ceremony and balloon launch during back-to-school festivities in early September.

According to Grove Principal Angela Bauer, a variety of fun events are planned for the year-long celebration which will culminate with a cake and ice cream party in the spring.

Students and teachers competed in a door decorating contest during October and November. In addition, commemo-



rative T-shirts and limited editions of Grove Eagle Beanbag "Babies" are for sale by the Grove Parent Teacher Association. Proceeds raised will be used to purchase an automated screen for the gymnasium.

April Hughes, a Grove volunteer, is currently researching the history of Grove and preparing a scrapbook to mark its 25th anniversary. Anyone with information about past principals, faculty or students may contact Hughes by calling the school office at 252-5211.

An Insider from "Down Under" Sparks Olympic Interest

With the drama of the 2000 Summer Olympics playing out in Australia, Jarman Elementary students enjoyed an "insiders" look at the world event through the eyes of student teacher **Janou Meens**, a native of Perth, Australia.



Jarman students gather around the morning newspaper to check Olympic results with student teacher Janou Meens. Pictured from left are Payton Foote, Allie Eldridge, Kayla Wilkerson and Mariam Ghanem.

Meens, a senior physical education major and member of the women's tennis team at Oral Roberts University, recently completed a seven-week student teaching internship under the

supervision of Jarman physical education teacher Kathy Bailey.

Meens took advantage of her sports knowledge and Australian citizenship to present a daily review of Olympic results using newspaper and television reports. She also helped Jarman students prepare for an Olympic competition of their own and worked with students in the gifted program.

Meens, who came to the United States in August of 1997, is a member of the ORU Lady Eagles' Mid-Continent championship team that has played in the NCAA tournament the last three years. She will graduate from ORU in May and hopes to make Tulsa her permanent home.

Meens answered many questions from the students and shared with them interesting facts about her homeland. "The thing I miss most about Australia is the wide open spaces," Meens said, explaining that her parents live on the ocean and she misses watching the waves. "I miss the weather, too; it's not cold there like it is here. But in many ways the United States and Australia are very similar."

Meens said the students' favorite questions dealt with kangaroos and koala bears.



Cedar Ridge kindergartner Taryn Miner and her dad, Greg, prepare to "start their engine" for a wheelbarrow race during a recent Dad's Day event at the school. Kindergartners, fathers and grandfathers enjoyed friendly competition in a variety of games and activities designed to provide the men an opportunity to visit their child's school.

Oscar Mayer Talent

Kaitlin Butts, a second grader at Darnaby Elementary, and **Kelsey Griswold**, a third grader at Andersen Elementary, were recently chosen as two of 10 national finalists for the Oscar Mayer "Jingle Jam" Talent Search.

The Oscar Mayer "Wienermobile" made surprise visits to both girls' schools and presented them with prize baskets.

Kaitlin and Kelsey were selected from over 7,000 contestants across the nation who wrote and performed their own version of the Oscar Mayer hot dog jingle. The girls will receive all-expense paid trips to Los Angeles in early December where they will compete for a \$20,000 scholarship and a chance to record a CD with recording artist Monica.

Elementaries

Miss Oklahoma Is a Big Hit at Union

It takes someone special to charm four-year-olds and high school kids on the same day. The reigning Miss Oklahoma, **Kristen Steveson**, made it seem easy during her September 14 visits at Union's Alternative High and Moore Elementary School.

Steveson, immersed in preparations for the Miss America



Young admirers (left to right) Ronnie Comeau, Hussan Gill and Talon Ward enjoy "singing along" with Miss Oklahoma.



Miss Oklahoma Kristen Steveson displays her crown for Angela Martin's preschool class at Moore Elementary.

pageant in Atlantic City, took time from her busy schedule to encourage teenagers at the Alternative School to believe in their own potential and abilities. In addition, Steveson performed two vocal numbers-- a country and western song and an opera number--the latter her talent selection for both the state and national pageants.

Welcoming Steveson to the Alternative School was Union teacher Tiffany Holden, who also reigned as Miss Oklahoma in 1994.

Later that afternoon, Steveson visited the preschool program at Moore Elementary. There she shared stories, songs and a "group hug," with the students in Angela Martin's 4-year-old class.

Roy Clark Students Invited to Music Hall of Fame Ceremony

Students attending Union's Roy Clark Elementary were recently honored as special guests of the Friends of Oklahoma Music during the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame's induction ceremony honoring the school's namesake. Country music entertainer Roy Clark was among those honored on Oct. 24 during the Fourth Annual Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Concert and Induction Ceremony at the Muskogee Civic Center in Muskogee. Among the group attending was the school's mixed ensemble group, the "Sparkle Tones."

Roy Clark Elementary, built in 1977 and dedicated in 1978, was named for the native Oklahoma musician and entertainer.

"We feel very privileged to be included in the ceremonies honoring Roy Clark," said elementary Principal Becky Hale. "We are proud to bear the name of a performer who holds himself to such high standards of character and performance."



Claire Shackelford, a third grade student at Darnaby Elementary, prepares her "Potato Olympian" for competition in Darnaby's 2000 Potato Olympics--a take-off on the Summer Olympic Games. The potato Olympic competition provided students a fun opportunity to learn about metric measurement, geography and sportsmanship.



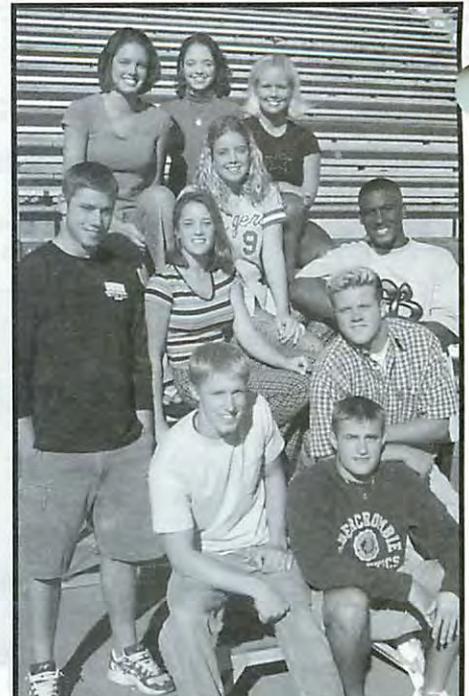
Dillon Jarman, a third grade student at Jarman Elementary, was selected to attend September's second annual Pokemon "Tropical Mega Battle" in Honolulu, Hawaii. The event was sponsored by Media Factory, Japanese manufacturers of the popular card game, and provided students with the opportunity to exchange cultural differences through a shared interest in Pokemon.

Dillon, pictured at left with his mother, Teresa, represented the United States as the youngest of 14 students chosen from across the country to participate in the international competition. While there, he earned a second place medal in one of the competitive-round competitions.

Dillon said he had fun meeting fellow Pokemon enthusiasts from Japan, Germany, France, Italy and England.



Intermediate High School drama students portrayed presidential and campaign personalities in a mock election on November 7. Pictured are: from left, secret service agent Austin Ferguson, Reagan (Austin Roach), Bush (Jordan Price), worker Dara Burge, Gore (Alan Goodale), Clinton (Ian Picco) and secret service agent Mark Hulett.



"Gold Fever" struck Union High School during a week of homecoming festivities Sept. 25-29. The 2000 homecoming court was feted during coronation ceremonies Sept 28 at Tuttle Stadium. Candidates honored included, from left, top row: seniors, Queen Britni Jackson, Lindsey McKellips and Autumn Long; junior attendants, Lacey Heatly and Carey Bachman; and seniors, King Caleb Blankenship, J.J. Sheffield, Zac Spavital, Tyler Gooch and Justin Brown.

Union Night School Sets Enrollment Dates

Union Sixth/Seventh Grade Center students can now take advantage of courses offered during the February 5-May 2 spring session of Union's Night School. Guidance, basic skills, and/or tutoring in English, math, science and social studies will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 P.M., at the Union Eighth Grade Center, 6501 S. Garnett. Parents may enroll their students for either or both nights. The cost for all 23 evenings is \$95. (For more information, contact Rachel Adams, 459-2730.)

Classes in English, math, science and social studies will be offered at the Intermediate High School for students in grades 9-12 who have failed a semester's credit or lack enough high school credits to graduate. They may take one or two (1/2 credit) courses during the session at \$95 per 1/2 credit. Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:00-7:00 P.M. and 7:00-9:00 P.M. starting February 5.

Driver's Education will also be held at the Intermediate High. Ninth grade students must be at least 15 1/2, and tenth grade students must be at least 15 by February 5, 2001, to qualify. Original birth certificates and the \$130 course fee must be presented at enrollment.

For working parents, two special evening enrollments will be held on

January 31 and February 1, 5:00-8:00 P.M. at the Intermediate High or students may enroll at the high school during January. Enroll early!! (For more information, contact Sallie Rose Jones, 459-4441.)



The Renegade Regiment took top honors at two major marching band competitions in October. Union's nationally reknowned band earned top honors at the Bands of America (BOA) Regional Competition on Oct. 21 at the TWA Dome in St. Louis. The band also won first place at the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association State Marching Band Championships at the University of Tulsa's Skelly Stadium on Oct. 28.

The Regiment placed 10th in the BOA Grand Nationals Competition in Indianapolis on Nov. 9-11. Union's band is the only Oklahoma band to have placed as a top-12 band the last six years at the BOA Grand Nationals.

The Renegade Regiment recently received and accepted an invitation to participate in the prestigious 113th Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 1, 2002 in Pasadena, Calif.

Union Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

Five Union High School students have been named National Merit Semifinalists.

Anthony P. Quinn, a member of the National Honor Society, French Club and French National Honors Society, Academic Team, Mu Alpha Theta and the Union High School Orchestra, where he plays violin.

Quinn has been recognized for many achievements, including being named to the Presidential Awards Program, receiving superior ratings in district and

state solo/ensemble contests and placing 5th in the National Math League. In addition to playing the violin, he enjoys writing in his spare time. Quinn plans to attend the University of Tulsa.

John S. Soderstrom is a member of the National Honor Society, Academic Team, Key Club, Pre-Med Club, Teenage Republicans, Drug Free Youth, Spanish Club and Mu Alpha Theta. He has received many honors and awards and

has been named as an Advanced Placement Scholar. He has received two additional mathematics awards--the U.S.

President's Award for Education Excellence, Distinguished Service Recognition and a foreign language award.

His community activities include Habitat for Humanity, the Red Cross and his church. He enjoys playing Ultimate Frisbee, biking, reading and working with electronics. He hopes to enter the engineering field and would like to start his own business.

Heather J. Huskinson is a member of the academic team, math club, student council and National Honor Society. Her hobbies include reading, writing, film-making and creating balloon animals. She plans to major in microbiology and to pursue a career in medical oncology.

Also named as a National Merit Semifinalist was **Daniel Birnbaum**, a Union student attending the Oklahoma School of Science and Math in Oklahoma City



Five Union High School students have been recognized as 2000-2001 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists. The students are: from left, Anthony P. Quinn, Heather Hutchinson, John S. Soderstrom, Brian P. VanSchoyck and James B. Thompson.

National Mathematics Award and the Colorado School of Mines Medal of Achievement in Math and Science in 1998-1999.

Soderstrom is active in several community organizations, including Meals on Wheels, Martin East Regional Library volunteer program, Salvation Army and St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church. He is ranked in the state of Oklahoma as an E-Force endorsed racquetball player and also enjoys playing Ultimate Frisbee and reading. His college plans include enrolling in the College of Engineering at Oklahoma State University.

James B. Thompson, of Tulsa, is a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club and has been named the last three years to *Who's Who Among American High School Students*. He enjoys the hobbies of Ultimate Frisbee, reading, art and computers.

Thompson is undecided about where he will attend college, but he is currently pursuing several options.

Brian P. VanSchoyck is a member of the National Honor Society, Math Club, Key Club, History Club and the Oklahoma High School Honor Society. He has received several awards, including the

PUBLIC NOTICE

Union Public Schools is looking for children and young people from birth through 21 who may be in need of special education services. Public Law 105-17 mandated confidential evaluation and placement for: visually impaired, hearing impaired, autism, orthopedically impaired, mental retardation, speech or language disabilities, learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, traumatic brain injury, developmental delays or other special needs.

For information or application, please contact Special Services for Union Public Schools, 459-3325. All services are without cost to parents and **are confidential**.



Eleven Union High School drill team and pom squad members were recently selected to the Oklahoma State Dance Team. Those selected include (first row, left to right) Deborah Pense, Melissa Bailey, Lauren Christoffersen; (second row) Darci Wells, Lauren Carr, Vicki Hobbs, Autumn Long; (third row) Meredith Root, Katie Kurin and Jami Mullikin. The girls will perform at the Oklahoma State Dance Team Championships on Dec. 2

Graduation Requirements Outlined

Union District is implementing graduation requirements outlined by HB 2728 for students graduating in 2003 and later. Students may satisfy the requirements through one of two programs, the standard diploma or the Distinguished Graduate Program.

To earn a **standard diploma**, students must complete the following high school courses: language arts/English (grammar and composition, American literature, world literature, English literature) - 4 units; social studies (government, Oklahoma/American history, U.S. history, world history) - 4 units; mathematics (Algebra I) - 3 units; sciences (biology) - 3 units; and arts and competencies (arts competencies will be met through satisfactory completion of world history) - 2 units; and 8 units of electives.

Union's graduation requirements, totaling 24 units, will satisfy entrance requirements for most post secondary associate degree programs.

The goal of the **Distinguished Graduate Program** is to recognize students who have exhibited outstanding academic achievement and service to school and community. Students who meet the requirements will receive a Distinguished Graduate diploma and special recognition at graduation.

Course requirements include: math through pre-calculus with trigonometry, including Algebra II and geometry; four years of English; four years of social studies; four years of science; two years of foreign language and two units of fine arts, athletics, business, computers/technology or leadership.

Students must complete coursework with no grade lower than a "C" and must maintain a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Students must successfully complete a minimum of 12 units of honors, pre-Advanced Placement (AP) and/or AP classes or classes through the Academic Resource Center. Three of the 12 units must be AP classes.

Students must achieve a satisfactory (or advanced) score, or its equivalent, on all end-of-instruction tests (Biology I, Algebra I, English II and U.S. History). In addition, students in the Distinguished Graduate Program must

complete 100 hours of school or community service and must make formal application to the program no later than the first semester of the senior year.

Mandated Testing

As mandated by HB 1599 and SB 491, the Oklahoma State Department of Education will administer "end-of-instruction" tests to measure secondary students' knowledge in the areas of English II and U.S. History. Students enrolled in these courses during the 2000-2001 school year will take the test in May.

Test content will be based on information outlined by the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS), Oklahoma's core curriculum. The PASS Skills are available online at <http://sde.state.ok.us>.

A student will be allowed to retake the test once, and the higher score will be reported on the student's transcript.

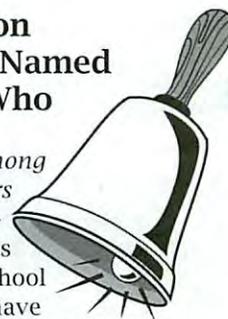
Beginning in 2002-2003, Biology and Algebra I end-of-instruction tests will be added.

For more information on the Oklahoma School Testing Program, contact the Oklahoma State Department of Education at (405) 521-3341. For specific questions regarding your student's coursework or testing, please contact your school counselor.

Union Teachers Named to Who's Who

Who's Who Among America's Teachers

has recently announced the names of Union Public School teachers who have been recognized for teaching excellence.



Teachers are selected by one or more of their former students who have themselves been listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students* or on *The National Dean's List*.

Teachers making the list are: **Patrick Bell**, Margaret Brannon, Tamara Breckinridge, Gary Crafton, Michael McRuiz, Earl Peterson, Nita Spencer, Jackie Swafford, Michelle Tull and George Ward, Union High School; Janna Allen, Paula Baugher and Rebecca Coffee, 8th Grade Center; Linda Massey, Doug Smith and Kay Roberson, 7th Grade Center; Jasmine Sharpe, 6th Grade Center; Marilyn Chronister and Cynthia Vanderpool, Andersen Elementary; Connie Ratliff, Cedar Ridge Elementary; Dalelee Pryor, Grove Elementary; Vicki Perritt, Nancy Sacra and Denise Thomas, Jarman Elementary; Debbie Reeves, Briarglen Elementary; Trish Lewellen, Peters Elementary; and Kristy Skidmore, Clark Elementary.

Boevers Elementary Principal Hally Garner and school nurse Sally Riebert provide moral support to McAuliffe Elementary school nurse Judy Ford (on gurney) as she donates blood during the 20th Annual Monique Webb Blood Drive on October 25. Riebert and Ford, who are sisters, organized the annual event which honors a former Boevers student who died of leukemia.



Parent Notification of Child Identification, Location, Screening and Evaluation

This notice is to inform parents of the child identification, location, screening and evaluation activities to be conducted throughout the year by the Union Public School District in coordination with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Personally identifiable information shall be collected and maintained in a confidential manner in carrying out the following activities:

REFERRAL - Preschool children ages three through five and students enrolled in K-12 who are suspected of having disabilities which may require special and related services may be referred for screening and evaluation through the local schools. Union Public Schools and the Regional Education Service Centers coordinate with the Sooner Start Early Intervention Program in referrals for identification and evaluation of infants and toddlers who may be eligible for early intervention services from birth through two years of age or for special education and related services beginning at three years of age. The Oklahoma Areawide Service Information System (OASIS), through a toll-free number (1-800-42-OASIS), also provides statewide information and referrals to local schools and other service providers.

SCREENING - Screening activities may include vision, hearing and health. Other screening activities may include: review of records and educational history; interview; observations; and specially developed readiness or educational screening instruments.

(1) *Readiness Screening* - Personally identifiable information is collected on all kindergarten students participating in schoolwide screening to assess readiness prior to entry into first grade. Results of the screening are made available to parents or legal guardians, teachers, and school administrators. No child shall be screened for readiness or evaluated without prior notice to the child's parent or legal guardian or whose parent or legal guardian has filed written objection with the local school district.

(2) *Educational Screening* - Educational screening includes accepted procedures for the identification of children who may have special learning needs and may be eligible for special education and related services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities

PUBLIC NOTICE

Union Public Schools makes every effort to contact, evaluate, and educate, in the least restrictive environment, each handicapped child under the provisions of Public Law 105-17 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and State Department of Education guidelines. Parents/guardians may call 459-3325 for information.

Union Public Schools ensures that parent/guardians may inspect and review any educational records of their child maintained at the school. Such records are kept in limited access confidential files. Confidentiality procedures, including a list of persons with file access, are posted in each school building.

The Union Public School District Plan for Special Education has been filed with the State Department of Education, and copies are available for public inspection in the Education Service Center. Inquiries concerning special education programs may be directed to Dr. Bonnie Johnson, 459-3325.

Education Act (IDEA). Each school district in the state provides educational screening. No child shall be educationally screened without prior notice to the child's parent or legal guardian or whose parent or legal guardian has filed written objection with the local school district.

- * Educational screening is implemented for all first grade students each school year.
- * Second through twelfth grade students shall be screened as needed or upon request of the parent, legal guardian, or teacher.
- * Students entering the public school system from another state or from within the state without previous educational screening, shall be educationally screened within six months from the date of such entry.

EVALUATION - Evaluation means procedures used in accordance with federal laws and regulations to determine whether a child has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services that the child needs. The term means procedures used selectively with an individual child and does not include basic tests administered or procedures used with all children in a school, grade, or class. Written consent of the parent or legal guardian for such evaluation must be on file with the Union Public School District prior to any child receiving an initial evaluation for special education and related services purposes.

Collection of Personally Identifiable Information - Educational records containing personally identifiable information collected by Union Public Schools in the identification, location, screening, and evaluation of children shall be maintained in accordance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Policies and Procedures for Special Education in Oklahoma.

Union Public Schools has developed and implemented policies regarding the collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction of confidential student records. Parents may obtain a copy of the Union Public School's policy from the Office of Superintendent of Schools.

In accordance with FERPA, Union Public Schools ensures that the parent or eligible student has a right to:

- * inspect and review the students education records within 45 days of receipt of request for access;
- * request the amendment of the students education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights;
- * consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the act and regulations in this part authorize disclosure without consent;
- * file with the United States Department of Education a complaint under 99.64 concerning alleged failures by Union Public Schools to comply with the requirements of the act and this part;
- * obtain a copy of the FERPA policy adopted under 99.6 by Union Public Schools upon request from the Office of Superintendent.

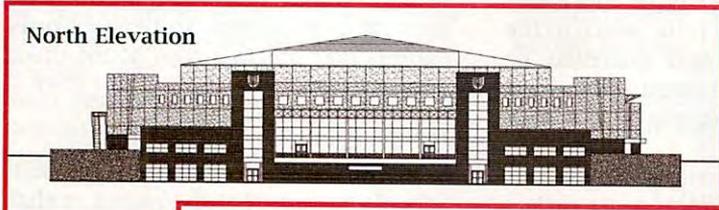
Before any major identification, location, or evaluation, schools shall provide notice to parents.

The Union Public Schools shall ensure all parents who have a primary language other than English that they shall be afforded written notices and oral communication translated so the parents understand the communication. This may be provided by an interpreter or other means necessary.

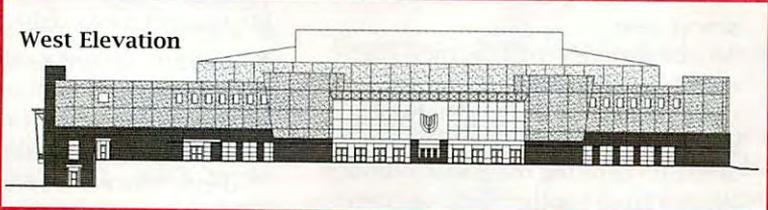
Student Activity Center Construction on Schedule

Careful planning on the front end is expected to pay big dividends once the Union Student Activity Center is built near Union Tuttle Stadium. That is why architects from the Gary Sparks Companies and construction managers from Flintco, Inc. have held more than two dozen meetings with various district user groups, patrons and administrators since the bond measure passed by a record-breaking majority last February.

"The meetings have served to identify priorities, assess costs and ascertain the



best way to meet those priorities," explained Mark Robertson, Union's Executive



Director for Support Services. "Thirteen to fourteen months is not at all unusual for planning a project this size," he said.

Union Superintendent Dr. Cathy Burden agreed. "As a result, we now have a realistic model for Phase I, a five-to-six-thousand seat multi-purpose Center and floor space for our student groups who have not had a home or practice area," she said.

Phase II-equipping the Wellness Center to be housed in the building and providing locker rooms, dressing rooms and dance space-is being considered for this coming February's bond proposal.

As the general concept is refined, so are the architectural drawings of the build-

ing's interior and exterior. According to Dr. Burden, "They will not look the same as they did when we first started. It is even better. We are extremely pleased with the way the design is coming together."

Much work remains before construction begins this summer. Programming is underway as is work on the initial schematic design. "By this January we should have an enhanced, detailed design, and we'll know how all the parts fit together," said Robertson. "In April we will complete construction documents and prepare for bidding the project. We'll bid it in May and start construction in June."

"A lot of thought is going into both phases of the Student Activity Center," Burden said. "The intricate planning also ensures that we carefully spend the bond funds that our voters overwhelmingly approved for it. So far, I am pleased to say we are right on schedule."

Notification of Management Plans
All buildings in the Union School District have been inspected for asbestos in accordance with the EPA law, "The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act" (AHERA). Results are in the district's management plans and are available at the Union Education Service Center. For an appointment to view them, contact Hassan Yekzaman at 459-3350.

Mark Robertson's New Job Is A Natural Fit

Union's new Executive Director for Support Services says he always knew at some point in his career that he wanted to move from the contractor's side of the table to that of the owner. After working as Senior Project Manager for Flintco, Inc. the past five years, that is exactly what Mark Robertson has done.



Mark Robertson

"Four of those years were spent doing construction management work for Union, so when the opportunity to join the district presented itself, it was a pretty natural fit," Robertson explained. Already a resident of the district, he started at Union in August, replacing Rex Woods who took a job in Tennessee.

Robertson had worked closely with both of his predecessors, Woods and Vernon Harmon, on a number of major construction projects. Among them were the new classroom wing, security improvements and both phases of interior renovation at Union High School; the new soccer and softball fields, the new practice gym at Union Intermediate, office and main entry renovation at the Eighth Grade Center; and construction of the district's newest building, Marshall T. Moore Elementary School.

Before moving to Tulsa, Robertson had been a Project Manager with a Dallas company specializing in public school construction.



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