



UCHS STEM Academy: Teacher Melissa Bridges, students Andrew Walker, Will Harkins, Sarah Cook, Evelyn McBride, Madison Yost, and teacher Alecia Frizzell.

Photo/Shawn Jarrard

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Mathematics and Science, and is an annual STEM competition that challenges students “to work collaboratively and apply their math and science knowledge in practical, creative ways to solve real everyday engineering challenges,” according to Frizzell.

“After participating in TEAMS, students increase their knowledge in engineering, feel more confident about participating in STEM activities and increase their ability to work with others to solve complex problems,” Frizzell continued. “This year the topic for the competition was ‘Engineering the Environment.’”

The students who competed were Madison Yost, Evelyn McBride, Sarah Cook, Andrew Walker, Thomas Mellendorf, Will Harkins, Brian Williams, Derek Harwood and Steven Williams.

Also in the meeting, the school board heard from Katy Jones, co-coordinator of Union County Family Connection, who gave the board some numbers that highlighted the generosity of Union County residents.

“Overall, our community donations were \$105,791, approximately,” said Jones, reporting on most recent donation totals that go toward helping students in need. “And there are some things that you can’t put a money value on, like ... students feeling like they



Union County Schools Superintendent Dr. Fred Rayfield.

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belong, like them not being hungry.

“But those are community donations that help (students) so that they are less distracted, they’re not hungry, and it just meets those basic needs that they have, and it helps to form relationships with the families and the parents of some of the least involved so that they are more willing to open up to the school.”

The board, as the fiscal

agent for Family Connection, voted to approve the Family Connection Council on Alcohol and Drugs contract targeted at underage substance abuse.

The board also approved the Union and Towns contract for Alternative Education Services.

The first day of school for Union County students will be Friday, Aug. 4.

Union County School System Child Find Procedures

The Union County School System has a mission, mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to locate, identify, and evaluate each child from birth through 21 years of age with a suspected disability, and to provide appropriate educational services to these children throughout our county. This is for all children, whether in public, private, or home school, incarcerated, homeless, migrant, etc., as long as they reside in Union County. We need your assistance to find these children so they can receive the help they need to enjoy a more successful life experience.

Once a child’s disability is identified and evaluated, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) can be created to meet that child’s specific and unique educational needs. For more information and as-

sistance with free educational services that are available for children with disabilities, call the Union County Schools Special Education Department at 706-745-2322. *Refer to State Board Rule Child Find 160-4-7-.03

Babies Can’t Wait (BCW) is Georgia’s statewide interagency service delivery system for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. BCW is established by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which guarantees all eligible children, regardless of their disability, access to services that will enhance their development. This program serves children from birth to age 3. For more information visit <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw/>.

Many children are born with or acquire physical and/or

mental conditions, which handicap their normal growth and development. Fortunately, many of these conditions can be helped or completely corrected if parents and others recognize the problem early and seek help. You can prevent an unnecessary life-long handicap by recognizing and dealing with a child’s problem as early as possible. Anyone can help us identify children with special needs, including parents, foster parents, grandparents, teachers, doctors, nurses, counselors, social workers, day care providers, and community members. If you know of a child in Union County from birth through age 21 who has special needs, please let us know so we can get them the help they need to enjoy a brighter future. Contact the Union County Schools Special Education Department at 706-745-2322.