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Athletes and coaches from the 2018 Boys Cross Country State Championship Team, L-R: Coach Paige Dyer, Malachi Patrick, Luke Gambrell, Nolan Bachman, Thomas Mellendorf, Hunter Hartzog, Guage Shumaker, Steven Seiler, Marcus Forrester and Coach Beau Kelley.
Photo by Mark Smith

something that happens all the time," said High School Principal C.T. Hussion.

Zoe Sanchez, a junior, was recognized as the girls' individual State Champion of the 2018 Georgia High School Association Class 2A State Cross Country Meet, which took place in Carrollton on Saturday, Nov. 3.

She finished with a time of 20:04.45, more than 51 seconds ahead of the individual state runner-up.

Members of the Boys Cross Country Team also received recognition for their history-making finish as state champs in Class 2A at Carrollton.

Students Malachi Patrick, Luke Gambrell, Nolan Bachman, Thomas Mellendorf, Hunter Hartzog, Guage Shumaker, Steven Seiler and Marcus Forrester received certificates for their group accomplishment.

Also in the meeting, Elementary School Principal Gerald Bavero presented the Union County Pioneer Award, sponsored by Pioneer RESA, to recognize an outstanding individual in the school district.

"It's not somebody that's the best in the world, but it's somebody who is the best for the world," said Bavero. "I'm very, very proud and honored to say that Miss Jody McClain was represented and picked by the faculty across the school district to represent the Union County School District as this year's Pioneer in Education."

The Golden Radish Award recognizes Union County Schools as one of 84 school districts that have received this award, said Assistant Superintendent Dr. Paula Davenport.



Union County Schools Superintendent John Hill recognizing Administrator Art McCann in the Nov. 20 board meeting for always "Going The Extra Mile."
Photo by Mark Smith

"Each school lunchroom works tirelessly to participate and use local products whenever possible, whether that be beef, pork, vegetables – whatever they can use," said Davenport. "And that's actually what the Golden Radish Award is."

School Nutrition Director Courtney Waller and her staff came forward to accept the award.

Davenport also recognized the work of Becky Dyer, who serves as the system's Parent Engagement Coordinator.

"November is Parent Engagement Month in Georgia," said Davenport. "One thing that has not changed is the importance of parents in their child's education."

In other news, the board approved a bid for kitchen equipment at the elementary school in the amount of \$18,520.55, and for the lease of 17 new copiers throughout the

system for \$1,670 per month.

The Inclement Weather Instructional Plan for the high school is now in place and activated through the school's Chromebook laptops, which will reduce the need for make-up school days due to inclement weather, said Hussion.

It was revealed in a discussion regarding recent College and Career Ready Performance Index scores that UCHS had gotten a zero in the "Closing the Gap" category, even though the high school has a 98 percent graduation rate and high scores across the board.

The reason is that the state formula requires a 3 percent improvement rate year over year. Last year, the high school got a 98 percent score in that category, and since the score is capped at 100 percent, it was impossible to show a 3 percent increase.



National Merit Scholars, L-R: Matthew Patrick, Adalyn Rogers, Leilani Schroeder and Andrew Walker.
Photo by Mark Smith

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expose them to more of what's out there in agriculture.

"For instance, anything from plants and animals to small grains and how it impacts their life. Instead of food coming from the grocery store, it originates somewhere. We have entirely too many people, and even in our small community, that still think food originates at Ingles and Walmart.

"And so, we're trying to help with that and educate our population, our community, on what's going on."

Of the 10 stations, one that drew a lot of attention was the Georgia Mobile Dairy Classroom, headed up by Nicole Duvall.

Duvall tours Georgia with Nolla, her Guernsey milk cow, in a big pick-up truck that tows a trailer featuring state-of-the-art milking apparatus.

She travels to about 20 schools or school ag facilities around Georgia each month to give milking demonstrations to students. Duvall milks Nolla twice a day and gives a presentation on the history, care and feeding of Guernsey cows.

Other stations at the Agriscience Center that Tuesday included a horse pen, a goat pen, a farm and ranch



Nicole Duvall and milk cow Nolla tour the state to teach kids using this Mobile Dairy Classroom.
Photo by Mark Smith

tractor and implement display, the LT-40 Wood Mizer sawmill display, a Georgia Forestry firefighting bulldozer, and a chicken and rabbit display inside the center.

Talton was the chef for the Tuesday event, where he served some delicious hamburgers with the help of Union County FFA members.

"The cool part about today's activities is we've got things for our kids to take home," said Talton. "In turn, what we want to do is (have) these kids go home and talk

to their parents about what went on today and where all this food comes from and the things that they learned today. That's the impact that we're trying to make.

"This is our second year doing this. Last year went phenomenally. They were educating their parents and talking with their parents about things going on. We heard a lot of good things from the teachers in the classroom last year, so we're expecting the same results this year."