

THE HOLTONIAN

Holton High School

901 New York Ave. Holton, KS 66436

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Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 1: No School - Staff Development.
- Nov. 4: Varsity Scholars Bowl @ Nemaha Central
- Nov. 5: Varsity and JV Scholars Bowl @ Jefferson West
- Nov. 6: FCCLA Leadership Conference @ Horton
- Nov. 7: Varsity and VJ Scholars Bowl @ Horton
- Nov. 9: NEKMEA District Band and Choir Auditions
- Nov. 11: FFA District Leadership School
- Nov. 12: Varsity and JV Scholars Bowl @ Valley Falls
- Nov. 14-16: HHS Musical
- Nov. 19: Varsity Scholars Bowl @ Sabetha
- Nov. 20: FFA District Horse Judging
- Nov. 22: Baker University Jazz Festival
- Nov. 23: Emporia State Honor Band
- Nov. 27-29: No School - Thanksgiving Break

XC Girls Win Second Consecutive League Title

By Carter Meerpohl, Editor

On Thursday, October 17, the Holton girls' cross country team became back-to-back league champions, achieving this milestone on their home course at Banner Creek Reservoir. This year's title carries special significance, as they are now the "Big East" league champions, following the merger of the Big 7 League and the Mid-East League. Holton welcomed new competitors, including Riley County, Rossville, Silver Lake, and St. Mary's. Three Holton runners finished in the top

five, showcasing their strength and determination. Senior team captain Eva Cortes placed first, followed closely by senior Maya Doney in second, and freshman Ava Clayton in fourth. Cortes has performed well in her previous meets, placing twelfth at the Rim Rock Class—one of the biggest, if not the biggest, meets of the year—and second at the Osage City Invitational. Junior Kennedy Smith and sophomore Katie Purcell contributed crucial points by finishing nineteenth and twentieth, respectively. Purcell earned a

personal best. A notable return came from junior Sophia Goombi, who had been sidelined due to injury. Although she ran for the junior varsity team at this meet, she excelled, placing first in the JV race, demonstrating her resilience and dedication. The team won the meet by nearly twenty points, with Hiawatha and Riley County trailing behind. Coach Seele praised the athletes for their hard work and dedication, and team captain Eva Cortes said that she was "super proud of the team." Additionally,

she mentioned that now it was time for regional competition. Looking ahead, the team aims to qualify for the KSHSAA Cross Country State meet on November 2, which means they need to finish as one of the top three teams in their region. Holton's region includes the high schools of Atchison, Baldwin, Bishop Miege, Eudora, Hayden, Louisburg, Paola, and Tonganoxie. According to team captain Eva Cortes, their biggest competitors will be Eudora, Baldwin, and Paola.



Submitted Photo

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Weekdays: 9AM - 5PM
Weekends: CLOSED

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New Teachers



Mrs. Mannell

- Previous job:** I worked at Lawrence Gardner High School located in the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Center. I was the science teacher, Registrar, Director of Student Academic Services and served as the interim principal for the last few months.
- Hometown:** I am originally from North Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin. Topeka is now my hometown.
- Favorite TV show/movie:** I don't watch too much, but when I get a chance, I like a wide variety of genres. I like to watch many types of history shows, mystery, suspense, comedy, and musicals. I also like to watch my favorite sports teams along with endurance racing like the *Le Mans*.
- Hobbies:** In my free time I like to spend time with my family, especially my 7-year-old grandson. I enjoy traveling, playing various sports, doing crafts, puzzles, and baking, being involved with the Topeka Justice and Unity Ministry project, NAAMI, and AFSP.
- Subject:** Biology, Human Anatomy, Physical Science, and Science Health.



Mr. Ashcraft

- Previous job:** I was the superintendent at Onaga USD 322. Before that, I served as the Curriculum Director for five years at Vermillion USD 380 just north of Onaga. I was happy to join Onaga for those two years to spend time working in the district from which my mom, aunt, and grandmother all graduated.
- Hometown:** I truly enjoyed my time at Onaga, but as the adage goes, "Home calls the heart." I am overjoyed at the opportunity to return to my hometown here in Holton; a proud graduate of '07. While I was the superintendent at my mom's alma mater, I now get to serve as the superintendent at the alma mater I share with my dad and uncles here in Holton. Seems I keep strong family ties.
- Favorite movie/TV show:** Right now, I enjoy *For all Mankind* on AppleTV.
- Hobbies:** When I'm not working — which isn't often — I can be found chasing after my hyperactive blue merle Australian Shepherd named Harbor, working on remodeling projects around my house, or helping my parents on their farm.



Mr. McAllister

- Previous job:** I attended Kansas State University, where I received my Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies Education. I did my student teaching at Spring Hill High School. While I was there, I taught World History and Global Explorations. I also was the freshman boys basketball coach.
- Hometown:** I am a born and raised Holton native. I graduated from Holton High School in 2020. I love this area and this state, and I am ecstatic to be back in this community.
- Favorite TV show/movie:** To pick one favorite is extremely difficult. But if I had to choose, my favorite TV show is *Seinfeld*, and my favorite movie would have to be *Caddyshack*.
- Hobbies:** In my free time, I enjoy watching movies and TV shows. I am a huge fan of sports, so if the Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City Royals, Dallas Mavericks, or Kansas State is on, I am watching it! I also love playing golf with my friends!
- Subject:** I teach Civics, World History, AP Human Geography, Criminal Justice and Law Studies.



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FFA Excels At Fall Competitions

By Jace Huyett, Layout Editor

On September 18, 25 freshmen from the Holton FFA chapter attended the Northeast District Greenhand Conference in Silver Lake. The day consisted of learning about the basics of FFA and what being a member includes. The members also received awards for an information test they had taken the day before. Freshman Julie Bontrager placed eighth out of over 400 members from across the northeast district.

A week later on September 25, 33 FFA members participated in three different events at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. They competed in Land Judging, Homesite Evaluation, and Nursery and Landscape.

The Nursery and Landscape team placed second overall with 1,269 points. They were just nine points behind the first place team, Sabetha. For individual placements, senior Lora Larison placed second, junior Lucas White and sophomore Haidn Newell tied for tenth, sophomore Addison Bontrager placed 12th, and

sophomore Camryn Wheeler placed 16th. The Homesite Evaluation Team placed first overall with a score of 802. The team had several freshmen that placed, as well as one sophomore. Grant Warner placed second, Kannon Segenhagen placed third, Tristan Schlotter placed fourth, Camden Schuster placed fifth, Tyson Carlson placed sixth, Brodyn King placed ninth, Landon Sawyer placed tenth, Evan Schaller placed 12th, Tucker Terry placed 13th, Thayne Gross placed 14th, Michael Willcott placed 16th, Tucker Buskirk placed 19th, and sophomore Pierson Cyphers placed 20th.

The Land Judging team placed first overall with 673 points, which is over 140 points more than the second place team. Junior Emberlee Allen placed first, junior Mara Marten placed second, senior Lora Larison placed fourth, and junior Wyatt Shields placed fifth. The Land Judging B team placed first overall as well with 566 points, which is over

80 points more than second place. All sophomores, Jacey Willard placed first, Rebekah Dement placed second, Tinsley Bradley placed fifth, Alyssa Stich placed sixth, and Pierson Cyphers placed 13th. On October 3, FFA members competed in the State Land Judging event in Beloit.

The team placed first with a score of 656, beating the second place team by over 100 points, and qualifying for Nationals. Nationals will be held in Oklahoma City in the spring. Junior Wyatt Shields led the team by placing first with a score of 225. Senior Lora Larison placed second with a score of 219, and juniors Mara Marten and Emberlee Allen tied for fourth with a score of 212.

This event also had a Homesite Evaluation competition. Holton's team placed second overall with three individuals in the top ten, all of them being freshmen. Grant Warner placed third, Tristan Schlotter placed seventh, and Tyson Carlson placed ninth.



Going For Gold: Junior Mara Marten, junior Wyatt Shields, senior Lora Larison, and junior Emberlee Allen win gold at state land judging competition.

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Marching Band Finishes off Season

By Charlie Turner, Copy Editor

The band's marching season ended with a week packed with three competitions and six full performances, but they made sure to go out with a bang. On Monday, October 7, the band went to the Eudora Invitational and received a 2, or excellent, rating and a score of 75/100. On Wednesday, October 9, the band went to Emporia State University and received a 2 rating with a score of 68.7/100, but placed sixth out of nine bands in their division. On Friday, they held a showcase performance for the whole school in the afternoon and performed at halftime for a home football game that evening. On Saturday, October 12, the band went to Hutchinson for the KBA Small Schools Marching Championship and placed top three in both rounds. In the preliminary round, the band received a score of 69.73/100 and finished second in their class. In the finals round, they received a score of 71.40/100 and

finished third overall. The color guard finished second overall.

The band's marching show this year is titled "Dreamland." It consists of four songs, including "Enter Sandman" by Metallica, "California Dreamin'" by The Mamas & the Papas, "Teenage Dream" by Katy Perry, and "Dream On" by Aerosmith. Additionally, "Teenage Dream" featured the band's color guard and "Dream On" featured a euphonium solo by senior Jace Huyett. The KBA Small Schools Marching Championship is the most important event of Holton's marching band season. This event only includes bands in the 1A-4A KSHSAA music classes, which are different from the regular classes. They're still based on the total student population, but the number of schools in each class is different. There is also a festival class for bands that don't wish to compete, but would like a rating and judges' comments. These bands don't participate in finals. Holton competed in the

4A division with Andale, Arkansas City, Atchison, Chanute, Independence, and Rose Hill. In the finals round, Holton also competed against the 3A bands Caney Valley and Lyons, and the 2A band McLouth. The festival class included only Hugoton, a 4A band.

The band was very excited to hear that they placed second in the preliminary round. They finished second only to Independence in the 4A division. Hearing that they finished third at finals was equally exciting to many, especially considering the best Holton has historically placed is seventh. In second place was McLouth and first place was Independence. The color guard's second place finish was also notable, considering this is only their second year and they're almost entirely student led. They finished second only to Independence. They didn't compete against all of the other bands, though, as not all of them have a color guard.

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KBA Small Schools Marching Championship: Senior Carter Meerpohl conducts marching band at KBA Championship. They placed third at finals.

Submitted Photo

Happy Ho



Katie & Logan



Sadey & Noah



Emily &



The Queens of HHS: The queen candidates Lexie Larson, Katie Etzel, Brooke Willcott, Sadey Gross, and Emily Horr pose for their picture taken during the ceremonial candidate photo shoot.
Photo by Briar Page



HOCO Candidates: The homecoming candidates pose for a group picture during the ceremony. Front Row: Emily Horr, Sadey Gross, Katie Etzel, and Brooke Willcott. Back Row: Bodie Dillon, Logan Altensburg, and Noah Bartel.
Photo by Briar Page



The Kings of HHS: The king candidates Logan Altensburg, Bodie Dillon, Noah Bartel, Kyler Jackson, and Owen Clayton pose for their picture taken during the ceremonial candidate photo shoot.
Photo by Briar Page

**Congratulations
to ALL
of the
Candidates!
You're All
Kings and
Queens!**

Ken and Barbie: Candidates Logan Altensburg and Katie Etzel ride in their convertible during the ceremony.
Photo by Elizabeth Schuster



mecoming!



& Owen



Lexie & Bodie



Brooke & Kyler



ing their photo shoot before the ceremony. Front row: Lexie Larson, Emily Owen Clayton, Noah Bartel, Logan Altenburg, and Kyler Jackson.



Bartel & Horr Crowned HOCO King & Queen

By Emily Lin, Assist. Editor

As the temperature outside becomes cooler and the leaves start to fall, one of the most significant events in high school approaches: homecoming. This event is special to many at Holton High School. It's a time for students to show off their school spirit.

This year, our school's spirit week theme was "Dressing." Since Monday was a professional development day, spirit week started on a Tuesday. On Tuesday, the theme was House Dressing. Students dressed in their favorite pajamas for the day. On Wednesday, students wore western clothing for the Ranch theme. The next day, students dressed for the Thousand Island dressing theme, and wore their Hawaiian outfits. On the last day of spirit week, students dressed in blue, white, and Wildcat accessories to match the Blue Cheese dressing theme. Those who participated in the week were rewarded with candy

during CRT.

Another spirit week activity was the annual homecoming pep rally. The sophomore and junior StuCo members organized games for the candidates. This year's queen candidates were Katie Etzel, Sadey Gross, Emily Horr, Lexie Larson, and Brooke Willcott. The king candidates were Logan Altenburg, Noah Bartel, Owen Clayton, Bodie Dillon, and Kyler Jackson. The candidates participated in the classic whiteboard game where they answer different questions about their pair. They also played games like "Hungry Hungry Candidates" and a ring toss game with hula hoops.

After the pep rally, the homecoming parade followed. The StuCo class presidents coordinated floats for each class, each with a theme to match the opposing team. This year's opposing team was the Perry-Lecompton Kaws. The float theme is decided among the student

council members, but the floats can be decorated by anyone from the class. The freshman class theme was "Catch the Kaws," and the sophomores' theme was "Cook the Kaws." The juniors' theme was "Chomp the Kaws," and they incorporated a lot of dinosaur decorations. The seniors' theme was "Shipwreck," and their slogan was "the Kaws are about to get shipwrecked." Everyone was encouraged to go to the parade and ride with their classmates. In the evening, right before the annual homecoming football game, the crowning ceremony took place. This year's homecoming king and queen were Noah Bartel and Emily Horr. The football game ended in a victory for the Wildcats with a score of 33-14. Shortly following the game, the dance began at 9:30 p.m. and ended at 11:30. Students got all dressed up for this year's Old Hollywood "Dress-to-Impress" theme.

Spirit Week!

Tuesday: House Dressing	Thursday: Thousand Island Dressing
Wednesday: Ranch Dressing	Friday: Blue Cheese Dressing

Volleyball Girls Wrap Up Season

By Jamison Holt, Staff

Following a promising start, the varsity volleyball team continued to push forward this month, winning matches at Rossville High School on September 21 against the Wamego Red Raiders 2-0, Silver Lake Eagles 2-0, Tonganoxie Chieftains 2-0, and Ottawa 2-0. Their only loss was against Rossville, with the Holton Wildcats taking one set and the Rossville Bulldogs taking two sets. Only a few days later at Concordia High School on September 24, the Holton Wildcats won their matches against the Riley County Falcons 2-0 and the Sabetha Bluejays 2-0. After a few well-deserved days of rest, the Holton Wildcats would head to Rossville High School on Septemebr 28 for five games. They won matches against the Wamego Red Raiders 2-0 and the Riley County Falcons 2-0. They would lose three games at Rossville, taking one set against the Nemaha Central Thunder and losing

the last two, with more of the same against the Royal Valley Panthers. Unfortunately, they lost two sets against the Rock Creek Mustangs as well. The Wildcats then set off to Royal Valley High School on October 1. They would take a loss against the Silver Lake Eagles, winning one set and losing two to them. Thankfully, they won against the Royal Valley Panthers by 2-0. On October 8, the Holton Wildcats headed to Rossville High School where they would win a match against the Jefferson West Tigers 2-0, though they would lose a match against the Perry-Lecompton Kaws, winning one set and losing two. When our Wildcats set off to Sabetha High School on October 12, they were dead set on winning, and they did just that. All six games were won. Wins were against the following: Marysville Bulldogs 2-0, Royal Valley Panthers 2-0,

Rossville Bulldogs 2-0, Concordia Panthers 2-1, Jackson Heights Cobras 2-0, and Sabetha Bluejays 2-1. Their last and two most recent games took place at Rossville High School. The first game was on October 15, where our Wildcats won against the Hiawatha Hawks 2-0 and the Royal Valley Panthers 2-1. The last game on October 17 was also a ground sweeping victory for the Holton Wildcats, winning 2-0 against the Rossville Bulldogs and the St. Mary's Bears. The Holton Wildcat varsity volleyball team will be heading to sub-state and hopefully state competitions in the coming weeks. "A great week of play to finish up the regular season before sub-state," stated varsity coach Kristel Bontrager before the team's last few games of the regular season. The senior volleyball girls hosted their very own senior night between games on October 15.



Senior Celebration: The varsity volleyball senior girls pose together for a group picture on their senior night.
Photo by Reese Purling



Break Their Offense: Senior Bodie Dillon runs the ball against Hayden.
Photo by Lexie Larson

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Football Boys Push Through Season

By Andrew Shupe, Staff

For the last game in the month of September the Wildcats played the Perry-Lecompton Kaws on homecoming night. Holton started the game holding the Kaws at zero points and scoring three touchdowns, gaining a lead of 20-0. Perry couldn't recover and Holton won on homecoming night 14-33, making their record 2-2. To start the month of October, the Wildcats played the Jefferson West Tigers in Meriden. The game was a blowout, with freshmen getting some playing time

in the closing minutes. The Cats won 48-9, extending their record to 3-2. Coming off three straight wins for the Wildcats, they faced another team of Wildcats from Hayden Catholic High School. Hayden was the team's biggest game of the regular season, and they spent a substantial amount of practice time stopping their run game. They shut down the run for the most part but gave up big pass plays and couldn't come back. The Wildcats lost, making their record 3-3. During the next week's

competition, the Wildcats played the Hiawatha Redhawks away. The game was tight in the first half; however, Holton pulled away to secure a 35-14 win. Ending the regular season, the Wildcats will play the Leavenworth Pioneers to either keep their winning record and finish the season strong or end the season with a loss and have a .500 record. After the regular season, the Wildcats will advance to the playoffs, but with the new seeding rules they are unsure where they will be placed.

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Girls Golf Team Blows Competition Away

By Reese Purling, Assist. Copy Editor

Holton's girls golf team has been busy this October, with meets on the 7th, 10th, and the 14th of this month alone. The meet on the 7th was the Silver Lake invitational at the Lake Shawnee Golf Course; it was an 18-hole tournament. The Holton team placed 4th overall, and junior Elisa Bartel placed 8th overall. The meet on the 10th was at the Manhattan Stagg Hill Golf Course, which was a nine-hole tournament. The Holton team placed 2nd overall and had two girls in the top ten: senior Kaiya Taylor in 5th place and junior Elisa Bartel in 9th place. The last meet was the 4A regional meet at the Turkey Creek Golf Course in McPherson on the 14th. It was an 18-hole

tournament. The Holton team placed 5th overall and shot a season-low 402 strokes, which was 80 strokes lower than the regional score of last year. According to the team's coach, Kurt Haussler, "We were in the strongest of the 4 regionals in 4A this year. The defending state champions, Wamego, took 4th with a very good score of 345 and did not qualify for state as a team. Our score of 402 would have qualified for state in two of the other three regionals this year and would have been good enough to get to state the past two years in the regional we were in." Our top performers overall this year were juniors Elisa Bartel and Amanda Taylor, along with senior Kaiya Taylor. Elisa medaled in

all seven tournaments, Amanda medaled in five out of seven, and Kaiya medaled in three out of seven. Both the varsity team and the JV team placed within the top five of every tournament this year. The girls team won 54 medals from varsity and JV combined this year, and all 11 members showed improvement, setting new personal records. Coach Haussler concluded by saying, "I am very proud of each and every girl in our program for their work every day to get better, for their trust in the process of improvement, and for how they were positive ambassadors for our school and program with the way they conducted themselves at practice and tournaments throughout the season."



Champion in the Making: Junior Elisa Bartel chips the golf ball onto the green during the 4A regional meet. Coach Haussler is standing behind her, waiting to give her coaching advice once she finishes her stroke. Bartel qualified for the state meet. *Submitted Photo*

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Sports News:

KU & K-State face off in the Sunflower Showdown at K-State.

Chiefs are bringing Tennessee Titans' DeAndre Hopkins through trade.

Chiefs remain undefeated; they still stand as AFC West leaders.



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Before The Bell: Who's Your Favorite Musical Artist?



By Reese Purling, Staff

Freshmen

"Sabrina Carpenter," said freshman Lilly Naylor.

"Eminem," said freshman Tristan Schlotter.

"Turnpike Troubadours," said sophomore Maddie Heineken.

"KSI," said sophomore Lane Pruett.

Sophomores

Juniors

"Niall Horan," said junior Sophia Goombi.

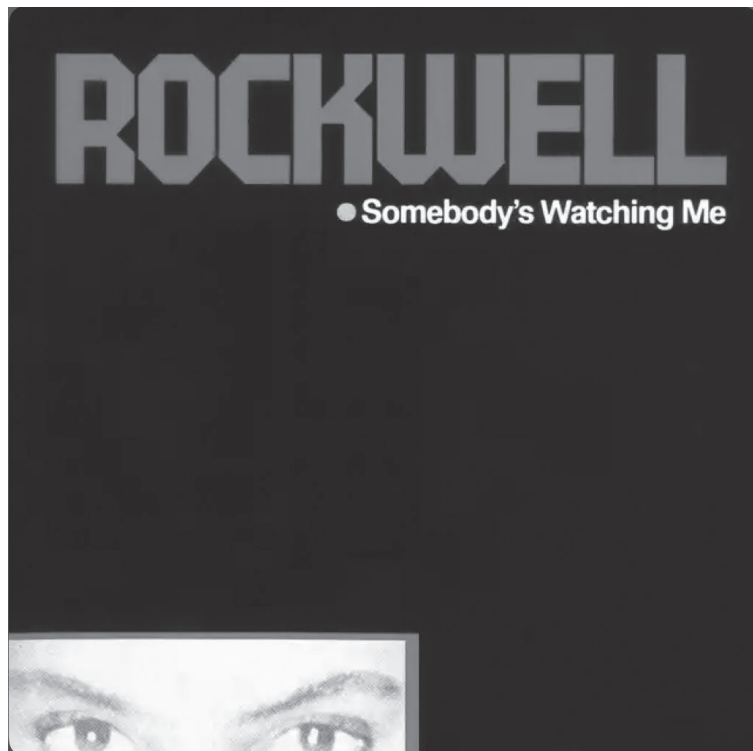
"The Strokes," said junior Crimson Edwards.

"Travis Scott," said senior Ivana Alvarez.

Seniors

"King Von," said senior Owen Clayton.

Song of the Month:



"Somebody's Watching Me" - Rockwell

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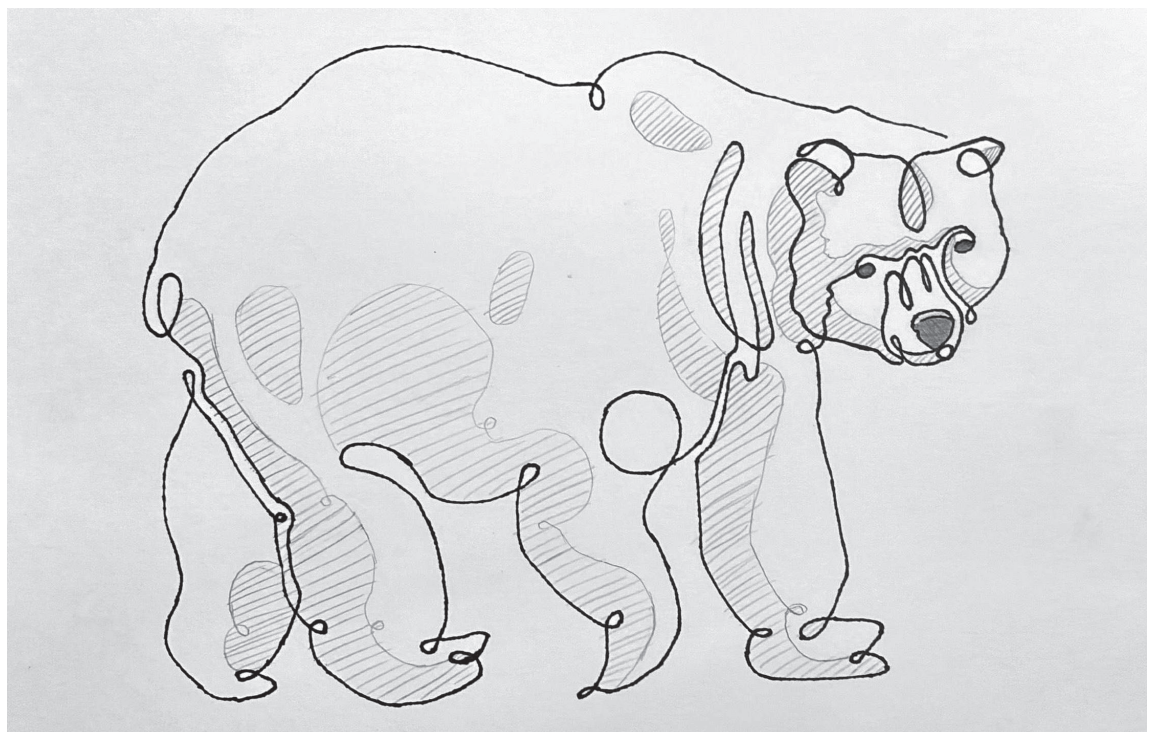
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Artist Highlight:



This is a drawing made in Principles of Illustration at the beginning of the school year by senior Maya Doney. Maya showed a strong sense of design and took the challenge of a continuous line drawing in an unexpected but delightful direction.

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- Casket
- Cat
- Cauldron
- Cobweb
- Coffin
- Creepy
- Demon
- Eerie
- Ghost
- Ghoul
- Grim Reaper
- Haunt
- Mask
- Midnight
- Moon
- Mummy
- October
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- Prank
- Skeleton

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- Bat
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- Boo
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- Cackle
- Cadaver
- Candy

- Tombstone
- Trick
- Vampire
- Werewolf
- Witch