

# THE HOLTONIAN

Holton High School

901 New York Ave. Holton, KS 66436

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## Upcoming Events:

May 3: Choir Trip to Worlds of Fun

May 3: State Speech & Drama

May 4-5: FFA State CDEs @ K-State

May 6: Band Pops Concert @ Courthouse Lawn

May 7: Athletic Banquet @ HHS

May 11: Band and Choir Awards Banquet @ Banner Creek

May 13: Seniors' Last Day of Classes

May 13: Senior Sayonara

May 14: Choir Pops Concert @ HHS Auditorium

May 17: Graduation

May 20: Last Day of Classes

May 27-29: FFA State Convention @ K-State

**SENIORS:  
Don't Forget About Graduation Practice on May 16!**

**It starts at 8:30!**

## Seven Students Perform in School Play

By Abigail Dement, Staff

On March 29 and 30, Holton High School put on a production of *John Proctor is the Villain*.

This play by Kimberly Belflower reexamines Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* through the eyes of modern day high school students by questioning the traditional portrayal of John Proctor as the hero and exploring themes of power, feminism, and the complexities of historical narratives. The play was directed by Mrs. Wittmer, who also played the role of Bailey Gallagher. Other actors involved were senior Jacob Huyett as Mason Adams, senior

Zoey Tinney as Shelby Holcomb, junior Cael Frazier as Lee Turner, junior Sophia Goombi as Beth Powell, sophomore Maddie Heineken as Raelynn Nix, sophomore Sarah Immenschuh as Nell Shaw, and sophomore Kellyn Norton as Ivy Watkins. The role of Carter Smith was played by Jayme Green, a well-known actor in the Topeka area who has also performed in productions at the Holton Community Theatre. Mrs. Wittmer explained that she chose this play because, "For the past two years, we have done predominantly comedies. This play has

grit and was relatable with my students." She also emphasized the importance of casting actual adults in the two adult roles in the play – herself as the school counselor, Mrs. Gallagher, and her friend Jayme Green as the English teacher, Mr. Smith. Mrs. Wittmer gave two shoutouts, saying, "Zoey Tinney and Jacob Huyett were my two seniors in this play. While this was Jacob's first school play, Zoey has been in our plays the last couple of years. A prolific writer, Zoey even wrote Scene Two for our play that we did her

sophomore year, *Cheating Death*. She will be missed after graduation! I wish both of these terrific kids luck as they continue their education at Kansas State University next year!" Senior Carter Meerpohl, who attended all nights of the showing, stated, "As a spectator, I enjoyed the pop culture references, like the use of 'Green Light' by Lorde. I also liked that the play mirrored *The Crucible*, so if you had read the book, then it was cool to see the similarities. Also, just in general, I liked how the play was relevant to some of the things that go on in our world."

## FFA Dominates in Several Local Events

By Jace Huyett, Layout Editor

The FFA chapter has been very busy in April, with two of their biggest events of the year. On April 2, 13 members went to Red Rock Ranch in Soldier to compete at the Regional Envirothon event. The three teams placed first, second, and third overall. The A team members consisted of freshmen Tucker Terry and Grant Warner, sophomore Pierson Cyphers, and seniors Lora Larison and Noah Bartel. The A team placed first in the Current Issue category with a score of 86 and the Soils and Land Use category with a score of 85. In second place was the C team, consisting of seniors Jacob Huyett, Aiden Calderon, Isabela Ward and Colbee Wing. The C team placed first

in the Forestry category. In third place was the B team, consisting of freshman William Beauchamp, junior Elisa Bartel, and seniors Jace Huyett and Shianne Kimball. The A team will travel to Camp Wood in Elmdale, Kansas, on April 23. The second event was Spring CDE day at Highland Community College. Twenty-three students went to this event, competing in four different events there. The first event was Floriculture. The Floriculture A team placed second overall, with senior Jacob Huyett leading the team in first place. Senior Jace Huyett followed in third, then senior Lora Larison in eighth and senior Maddy Bontrager in twelfth. In

Dairy Foods the A team placed first, with senior Sam Dement in first, senior Jacob Huyett in second, and senior Emily Horr tying for third. In Vet Science the A team placed fifth overall. Maddy Bontrager and Dylan Anderson led the group, placing eighth and ninth respectively. The B team placed first overall with sophomore Rebekah Dement in second. Sophomore Addison Bontrager was close behind in fourth, and sophomore Tinsley Bradley placed seventh. The Freshman Vet Science team placed fourth overall, with Jake Segenhagen leading the group in tenth place. In Wool Judging the A team placed first overall, with freshman Lilly Stous placing first individually.

Addison Bontrager and Rebekah Dement tied for sixth, and Lora Larison placed eleventh. The results of the Ag Communications event were also announced at this event. The Ag Communications test was taken online before spring break. The A team placed sixth overall, with Dylan Anderson placing first individually. The B team placed first overall, with Lane Pruetz placing third, Adalyn Bartels placing fourth, and Addison Bontrager placing fifth. The chapter has a busy schedule to finish out the year with their Chapter Banquet being held on Sunday, April 27, and the District Banquet the following day, State CDEs on the fourth and fifth of May, and State Convention May 27-30.

## ON THE INSIDE:

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BAND & CHOIR Pg. 2



TRACK & FIELD Pg. 3

BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, GOLF Pg. 4

## Band & Choir Perform At Regional Solo & Small Ensemble

By Emily Lin, Assistant Editor

Members of the Holton band and choir attended the regional solo & small ensemble contest at Manhattan High School on Saturday, April 5. This regional consisted of 13 3-6A schools near Manhattan. Before, Holton attended the regional at Benedictine College in Atchison but moved back to Manhattan High School this year for the first time since 2018.

Many talented soloists got a superior rating and made it to the state contest. Vocal soloists included senior Rosalyn Cline, junior Emily Ditzler,

junior Jackson Truelove, sophomore Jaelynn Cotrill, and sophomore Maddie Heineken. Instrumental soloists included senior Carter Meerpohl (clarinet), senior Brynn Schmille (flute), junior Elisa Bartel (flute), and junior Charlie Turner (timpani). These performers will be going to State Solo & Ensemble, which will be held at Andover Central.

As for small ensembles, those who made it to state were the Holton High School Notables, Notables Men, and Notables Women. The full group performed "If Ye Love

Me" arranged by Peter Niedman, the men's group performed "Gospel Train" arranged by Tripp Carter, and the women's group performed "Seal Lullaby" by Eric Whitacre.

Notables consists of seniors Morgan Abney, Rosalyn Cline, Jacob Huyett, Carter Meerpohl, and Zoey Tinney; juniors Phillip Apel, Elisa Bartel, Emily Ditzler, Kayden Gale, Mya Marten, Rhevl Murphy, Presley Phillips, Lili Tanking, Amanda Taylor, and Jackson Truelove; and sophomores Rebekah Lassey, Maddie Heineken, Zach Jensen, and Lane Pruett.

## Band Attends the Kansas State Large Group Festival

By Reese Purling, Assistant Copy Editor

On Thursday, April 10, the Holton High School band and choir both traveled to Atchison to compete in the Kansas State Large Group Festival hosted by KSHSAA. Both groups performed separately. The band was conducted by director Jayme Malsom, and the choir was conducted by director Alyssa Wendel with accompanist Pat Grindol. The band performed two pieces in total: "Canto" by W. Francis McBeth and "Symphony No. 1 'A Ghost Story' Mvt. 2: Loss" by Randall Standridge. The soloists for the second piece included Carter Meerpohl on clarinet, Jace Huyett on euphonium, Elisa Bartel on flute, Krista Adcock on bassoon, Jacob Huyett on French horn, Noah Bartel on trumpet, and Lucas White on the synthesizer. The band received superior (highest) ranking overall and from each judge.

According to Malsom, the second piece played was the hardest piece that he has ever performed with an ensemble as a band director. "Loss" was Standridge's first ever symphony, and his first without limitations. "There were many different elements to the piece that were difficult to put together, but the most difficult part, I think, was putting the emotion into the piece," said senior band member Carter Meerpohl.

"Canto" is a part of "classic" band literature, and many other bands have played this piece before. Many different elements of the piece included unique percussion sounds such as hand clapping and slapping woodblocks together.

The choir's large group performed three pieces in total: "Changes" by Audrey Snyder, "Hold Fast to Dreams" by Susan LaBarr, and "Cantate Domino" by Mark Hayes.

The choir also received an overall superior rating (I), and the judges gave them two superior ratings and one excellent rating (II). "Changes" required body percussion, which was challenging to perform while singing. "Cantate" was a piece in Latin and a favorite of the performers in the group.

Because there are enough women in the large group, they can have their own women's large group, which performed the following pieces: "Orion" by Susan LaBarr and "Sisters" by Gwenyth Walker. They received a rating of superior overall and from each judge. Both the band and the choir plan to host one more spring concert in May. The band will perform on Tuesday, May 6, on the east side of Holton's courthouse, and the choir will perform on Wednesday, May 14, in the high school auditorium. Both concerts have a tentative start time of 7 p.m.

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## Track And Field Coming Back To Break Records

By Carter Meerpohl, Editor

The final sports season is among us with the last few weeks of the school year dwindling down. With finals, additional extracurricular activities, and everything in between, students still find a way to do a sport they love. Track and field has been one of Holton's most prominent sports for decades, and the program had some great talent filter through. The team's season this year started in the first week of March, and the team is coached by second-year head coach Brooks Barta. The assistant coaches are Brian Meerpohl, Matt Hundley, new coach Mike Mosier, and returning coach Dave Ashcraft. After weeks of preparation, the team was eager to show off their talents at the first track meet of the season. The first meet of the season was held at the home track on April 1. The teams that attended were Atchison High School, Hiawatha High School, Jackson Heights High School, and Pleasant

Ridge High School. While this meet might not be as competitive, it gives the student athletes good exposure to their events before they compete in the meets like League, Regionals, and State that really matter, according to Coach Barta. Among the athletes, there were various first place finishers. An outstanding performance by senior Lauren Shupe earned her first place in the 100 Meter Hurdles and Long Jump, where she broke the school's record by jumping 17 feet, 5 inches. On the men's side, Brayden Peek placed first in High Jump, also breaking the school record. Both the men's and women's teams won this meet. The second meet of the season was hosted by Perry-Lecompton High School, and hosted five schools from the new Big East League. This pre-league meet was more competitive than the first meet, but the athletes still competed valiantly. Some of the first place finishes were seniors Brayden

Peek, Eva Cortes, Lauren Shupe, juniors Jacob Warner and Korban Wilson, sophomore Pierson Cyphers, and freshman Alexa Warner. At this meet, the men's team won by over 35 points with a score of 152.25 points, and the women's team placed second by just over ten points. During the same week, the varsity team traveled to Atchison High School to compete in the Atchison High School Invitational. There were nine teams that attended this meet, which included the host team Atchison High School, who the team had already seen in competition. The men's team had ten first place finishes, and the women's team had eight first place finishes. While the women's 4x400 Meter relay did not get first place, they fought in an exciting race, only getting second by two-tenths of a second. Both the men's and the women's teams won the meet by nearly 100 points each.



**Sprint To The Finish Line:** Senior Abigail Schlotter, junior Ansley Bear, freshman Stephanie Crawford, and senior Lauren Shupe compete in the 100 meter dash.

Photo by Emily Lin



**Fueled By Faith:** Junior Daniel Cannon prays before he competes in the first 400 meter dash of the track season.

Photo by Emily Lin



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## Baseball Navigates Tough Early Season

By Andrew Shupe, Staff

To start the season, the Wildcats played the Panthers for our Jackson County matchup. Coming on strong to the season, the Wildcats won both games in the doubleheader, 15-5 for both. Then, to end the month of March, the boys went to Silver Lake for another doubleheader. In the first game, the Wildcats went up seven runs, but Silver Lake came back and won 12-8. The second game, they also lost 1-8. Next up was Falls

City in a home game. The Wildcats lost 1-9. On April 7, the boys played the Sabetha Bluejays in a doubleheader. In the first game against the Bluejays, the Cats lost 1-14. In the second game, there was the same end result; the boys lost 2-12. The next game was against the Wichita East Aces. This game could have been the turning point for the team, as they marginally won by five runs, winning 12-7. But they next played the Wichita North Redhawks and

were beaten 1-16. Most recently, the boys played the Perry-Lecompton Kaws for a doubleheader. The first game was their most promising game and their closest game of the year. Although they lost 5-6, their effort was great. The next game was a loss with a final score of 1-11. The rest of the season, the boys will play St. Mary's, Nemaha Central, Rossville, Hiawatha, and Jefferson West, all in doubleheaders. Good luck, Baseball.



**Strike:** Sophomore Tinley Wilson pitches the ball at thier home game against Royal Valley. The girls won both of the games.

Submitted Photo



**Bunt:** Junior Lili Tanking gets ready to bunt the ball in thier home game against Royal Valley.

Submitted Photo

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## Softball Starts Year with Big Wins

By Andrew Shupe, Staff

The softball team this year has lost most of their team due to seniors graduating. This means their team is young and will need work. To start the season, the girls played Santa Fe Trail in a doubleheader. The first game, the girls lost 7-9, but came back to win the second with a score of 9-7. Next up was their Jackson County matchup when they played the Royal Valley Panthers at home. The Cats ended up winning both games. The final of

the first game was 11-8, then the final of the second game was 16-5. Starting the season 3-1, the girls traveled with confidence to Silver Lake for a doubleheader there. The first game was lost 0-10, and the second game was lost 2-6. Next, the Cats had another league matchup where they played the Sabetha Bluejays in another doubleheader. They lost the first game and then blew them out in the second game. The final of the first

was 4-10. The second game was a different story as they demolished the Bluejays 21-1. Next, the girls played against the Perry Lecompton Kaws, who might be their most evenly matched games all season. The first game was lost 4-5, but the Cats weren't done there. They bounced back, winning the second game 10-9. The girls have six doubleheaders left; they will play St. Mary's, Nemaha Central, Rossville, Hiawatha, Jefferson West, and Riley County.



**Victory:** The varsity golf team poses for a picture after winning the Sabetha Invitational 4-Man Team. Freshman Easton Moulin placed first, shooting 82, and junior Korben Fox placed third, shooting 85.

Submitted Photo

## Golf Starts Season with Victories

By Jamison Holt, Staff

The Holton Wildcats boys golf team has stood out in recent competitions this season. They continue to give their all, resulting in major team wins. The tournament on March 31 took place at Royal Valley's Firekeeper golf course, an 18-hole championship course. On March 31, six members of the boys team attended the tournament: seniors Braiden Geisen, Cooper Wheeler, and Brody

Meyer, who was returning to play his first meet after a basketball injury; juniors Korben Fox and Jack Etzel; and freshman Easton Moulin. Brody Meyer, with a score of 82, placed fifth; Korben Fox, with a score of 83, placed seventh; and Easton Moulin, with a score of 84, placed ninth. Overall the team scored 349, placing them second in the tournament.

Later, on April 15, the Wildcats attended the

Sabetha Four-man Team Championship where they once again did an outstanding job. The four-man team consisted of Easton Moulin, Korben Fox, Brody Meyer, and Jack Etzel. Individual medalists were Easton Moulin, with a score of 82, placing first, and Korben Fox, with a score of 85, placing third. Overall the boys team scored 357 points at the Sabetha Championship.

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