

THE SWARM



3rd Six Weeks Edition

Volume 2, Issue 3



Thrills and Spills as Basketball Season Continues For Highland

Story by: Chloe Kruser

The Hornets have had an eventful week of basketball. The Irion County game ended in a loss 48-54. Elliott Eaker was the leading scorer with 17 points, as well as Ayden Peacock and Rhyder Glass having 7 points apiece. It was a persistent battle, and unfortunately, the Hornets came up short.

The Blackwell tournament was a great success for our boys. The first game of the tournament was against the Blackwell Hornets; Highland took the win unscathed, 69-25. Eaker had 21 points and Peacock 18 to seal the big win over Blackwell. The next game against Loraine was a sweep for our Hornets with a win of 62-28. Peacock and Eaker combined for 40 points to keep the game far out of the Bulldogs' reach. Another easy win for the Hornets over Winters 53-22. To get to the championship, the Hornets got a big win against Paint Pock with a score of 48-31. Glass led the way with 13 points, and with all the other boys contributing, it was a team effort win for the Hornets. The championship game against Veribest was a very intense nail-biter. The Hornets ultimately came up short, losing 35-40. They ended up placing second in the Blackwell Tournament, showing that they are continually improving and ready to fight through this season.

JV Boys have had a few games as well. The boys battled Winters in a tough one. Hudson Cain, Braxton Hoelscher, and Max Shipp had strong showings in that game. Next was Irion County.

In girl's play, the Lady Hornets have been on fire lately, bringing home wins against a tough Grady team and coming in second at the Garden City Tournament. Before that, they also spent some time in Robert Lee, as tournament season is upon us.

In Robert Lee, the ladies got wins against Roscoe and Eden. They looked like a very cohesive unit, doing well with executing their plays. Lastly, they squared up against Ballinger, with a final score of 26-18. They brought home 2nd place, with Kaylene Ledbetter and Chloe Kruser receiving individual standout awards.

At the tournament, they won all four of their games to make it to the final round, playing against a State ranked Coahoma team. Briana Baucom had some strong games, with a standout 3-point performance. Tatum Heady showed up on defense as well as Chloe Kruser lending a hand.

JV girls have played against Merkel, coming out with the win. Kailey Clowers and Allie Ashford had a solid game against this squad.

Look for more basketball action in the coming months!

Upcoming Events

- Dec 19-Jan 5-Christmas holiday
- Jan 5- Staff workday
- Jan 7-10-Nolan County Stock Show
- Jan 10-Sandhill Stock Show
- Jan 8: Early release
- Jan 9-School holiday
- Jan 14-PTO pickles and popcorn
- Jan 15-17-JH Basketball Tournament @ Highland
- Jan 24-Regional Robotics @ ACU
- Jan 27-HS Basketball vs Loraine @ Highland
- Jan 28-29- Fort Worth Stock Show: Lambs
- Feb 3-STAAR Field Test: 5th/9th
- Feb 3-HS Basketball vs Westbrook @ Highland
- Feb 5-JH Basketball @ Roby
- Feb 6-HS Basketball @ Hermleigh
- Feb 6-San Angelo Stock Show

JH One Act Lands First in District



Story by: Brandt Skoviera

Wow, what a show, junior high! They were able to go and win the district with their show, "The Bugs." The play is about a set of bugs that decide to take matters into their own hands when they notice that the humans nearby are building a swimming pool.

This conflict leads to some unlikely partnerships between creatures that might not interact normally. Mosquitos, bees, moths, and spiders all come together for a common goal. The ups and downs provide the audience with a comedic show that has a lot of heart as well. The Highland students played the parts perfectly, and when they went to district, their efforts were rewarded. All of their hard work paid off!

Mrs. Merryman did a good job of getting her students ready to go to competition, with several students bringing home medals for their performance. Ava Padilla got best stage manager. For acting, honorable mention all-star cast awards went to Alex Etheredge and Jetten Fullwood. All-Star Cast went to Kaison McCorkle and Lauren Tomlin brought home best actor overall.

After competition, the students had a few more performances, one for the community and one for the school. Everyone who attended commented on what a cute show it was and how the students worked hard to put on a great production. Congratulations again to Mrs. Merryman and her students!

Highland Takes On College Campuses



Story by: Brayden Crain

Two classes have gone on college tours this past six weeks. The 10th graders visited TSTC in Abilene and 9th graders went to Angelo State University in San Angelo. The freshman said they had a good time. Most of them said they really enjoyed the campus, as well as the food. This helped them see what college looks like and all the opportunities they have when it comes to different majors. The sophomores also said the same thing; they really enjoyed seeing another campus, so they could see the different opportunities and styles and see their options in the future. More opportunities will be coming up in the spring to see Texas colleges.

Robotics State Bound in 2026

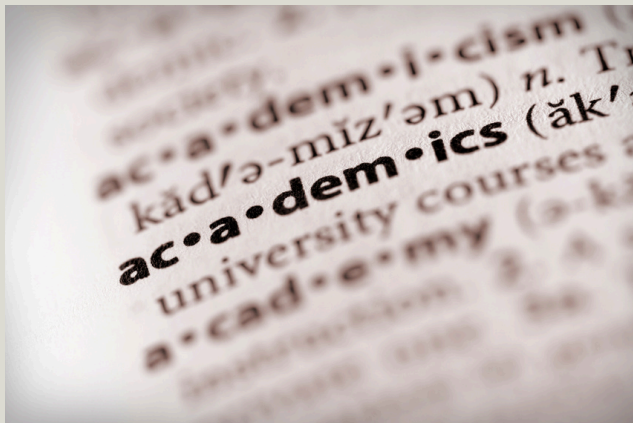


Story by: Brodey Baxter

The Highland Robotics Team has done exceptionally well in the most recent tournaments. They won two different tournaments, one being at Bryson, Texas, and the other being at ATEMS in Abilene.

They made it to two different State competitions, with one being in Dallas and the other being in Houston. The guys have been working extremely hard to do well to get to State competitions and will continue to do so until February. Let's all congratulate the Highland High School Robotics team on their amazing performance in these events.

Highland Elementary and Junior High Come Out Strong for UIL Academics



Story by: Ms. Hamlin

Elementary and junior high UIL academics kicked off with practices throughout October and November. December brought about actual competition, with all that practice time being put to the test. Groups were back and forth to Westbrook all day, giving their Highland best.

Elementary had several standouts, grabbing first place in a number of events: Natalie Gudino for creative writing, Landon Acuna in spelling, Sophia Shipp in music memory, Adalae Cox in spelling, Kloey Simpson in oral reading, and Gunner Zetzman in listening. Other students helped the group medal as teams, with almost every event placing. First place team events were: 3rd music memory and spelling, 4th art and music memory, and 5th listening skills.

For junior high, first placing was for the following: Amelia Franks in impromptu, Teagan Abroghast in social studies, Sy Borders in spelling, Alex Etheredge in impromptu, Kaison McCorkle in mathematics, Ava Padilla in calculator application, and Lauren Tomlin wiping up the competition in modern oratory, oral reading, ready writing, and music memory. Junior high teams had a strong showing together as well, with four first place distinctions in 8th grade mathematics, music memory, and spelling and 6th grade calculator applications.

Highland students, we are SO proud of you and the way you represented the school. Keep striving to do the best you can, and we hope to see many of you participating again next year for these events!

Junior High Basketball Develops Young Talent and Refines Seasoned Athletes



Story by: Rhyder Glass

Junior high teams have been in action over the last few weeks, with matchups against Loraine, Roby, and Westbrook. Both the boys and girls squads have put in a lot of work on the court. The boys have been put through a test of their skills, playing in some tough matchups. Standouts in those games include Sam Weaver on defense and the Deloera boys, Amrin and Amrik, on offense.

The Roby game was another tough battle. Rhett Glass had a good game offensively, with Sam Weaver coming through once again on the defensive side of the ball. They continue after the holidays with games against Trent and Ira.

Junior high boys girls been putting up the good fight, coming out with impressive wins. The Roby and Westbrook games were both wins for this ladies' grouping. Alex Etheredge dominated the court with assistance from Lauren Tomlin. Ava Padilla has also had a strong season, showing to be a great utility player on the wings. Kambri Heathcoat has been having some good games defensively as well. Both 6th and 7th grade girls have gotten some valuable court time as well, with Madi Rogers and Rilynn Ledbetter stepping in to give some of the 8th graders a breather.

If their current level of play is any indication of what the future holds for this Coach Baucom led team, things look bright indeed.

Highland Thanksgiving Meal



Story by: Cooper Cain

The annual Highland ISD Thanksgiving meal was put together by our wonderful lunch ladies, April Taylor, Becky Crain, and Media Kimbrell, on Monday, November 17th. We were served ham, dressing, cranberry sauce, and gravy. Students could eat with their families, and it is a very good way to bring our school community closer together. The full cafeteria during lunches was a sign that the Thanksgiving meal had another successful year, with many students getting to eat with their family members, such as parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and many more.

Thank you to everyone who made it a great meal!

FFA LDE Contest



Story by: Davis Drake

The FFA LDE contest was very successful recently, with many people going far in the competition. Several Highland students brought home placings in the different categories of LDE. The Greenhand team got 6th place and 10th place. Senior quiz got 4th and 11th place. In the Senior Creed Speaking Contest, students placed 3rd and 4th. Lastly, in Greenhand Creed Speaking, students placed 1st and 6th. Alex Etheredge got top marks and advanced to Area competition.

The day proved to be a good one in Ira for Highland FFA. Good job, students, on all of your hard work!

Highlighting the Hornets



**MATTEO
COX**

Story by: Carson Wright

Matteo Cox is the six-week Hornet Highlight for elementary. He is in pre-k and loves to play with his friends. He has two favorite colors, those being orange and yellow. He has a bunch of dogs and one cat.

His favorite thing to do at school is drawing pictures. He enjoys playing driving games, with Mario Kart being his favorite.

Mrs. Wehba says that, "Matteo radiates excellence in class. He excels through discovery and passionately participates in every project we embark on. He is soaring into an outstanding journey in pre-k!"

Outstanding work, Matteo!

Tempe Hamlin was nominated as the Hornet Highlight for this six weeks from Mrs. Pyburn. She described Tempe as "always on task while in class. They keep their talking to a minimum and are respectful of me and others in class."

In her free time, Tempe likes to listen to music like NF and Taylor Swift while she twirls her baton. She also likes to hang out with friends and work on her skincare routine.

She loves ramen and hamburgers. Her favorite restaurant is Raising Cane's and Golden Chick for their tenders.



**TEMPE
HAMLIN**

Story by: Calvin Magee

In school, she is a twirler and plays basketball. She says Coach Brumley's class is her favorite because he is really cool and fun.

Way to go, Tempe, on being this six week's Hornet Highlight.

