

THE SWARM



4th Six Weeks Edition

Volume 2, Issue 4



Time to Get Tatted Up and Our First Hundred Days

Story by: Brodey Baxter

To start off the new year, the Highland PTO held a fundraiser to "tattoo the teacher." This allowed students to buy stick on tattoos for whichever staff member they wanted. Elementary teachers were the most decorated by the end of the week, with all the ladies on the north end of the school decorated well. Some of the secondary teachers, especially the coaches, got a bit of skin art as well. At the end of the fundraiser though, Nurse Morgan Martin was the clear winner, almost having two full sleeves with a few facial tattoos, too. Overall, the event was a success and gave Highland students a chance to see their teachers in a different way.



We also saw the passing of a 100 days of school! The pre-k and kindergarten celebrate every year with a themed day. We are in the home stretch now, and only a few more months until summer!

Hornets are Snow Cool

Story by: Ms. Hamlin



This past six weeks gave all of us Hornets a special treat that we aren't very accustomed to: snow days! A lot of you made the most of the time away from school in those cool temperatures! Look for more of your fun photos when the yearbook comes out! And thank you to all of the parents for sharing a bit of your joy with the yearbook staff!

Upcoming Events

- Feb 22-28-San Antonio Stock Show
- Feb 26- JH Track Meet @ Veribest
- Feb 27- HS Track Meet @ Veribest, Robotics REC State Competiton @ Southlake, TX
- Mar 2- JH Track Meet @ Highland
- Mar 5-HS Track Meet @ Highland
- Mar 6-Houston Stock Show
- Mar 9-District OAP-HS
- Mar 10-HS Track Meet @ Ira
- Mar 11-PTO Pickels and popcorn
- Mar 12-Austin Rodeo
- Mar 16-20-Spring Break
- Mar 24-JH Track Meet @ Blackwell
- Mar 25-UIL Academics District
- Mar 27-HS Track Meet @ Blackwell
- Mar 28-OAP Bi-district
- Mar 28-HS Track Meet @ Hermleigh

Highland "Shows" Up for Nolan County Stock Show



Story by: Brayden Crain

The Nolan County Stock Show took place in January and many of the Highland students participated in the event. For the steer show at the county stock show, Caletton Hughes got the champion in the British breed, and Koy Johnson got the reserve in the same breed. In the market, Swine show Kambri Hethcoat got Grand overall champion swine, breed champion blue cross, Champion Sr swine show, and she did exceptionally well in other categories. Nic Carreon did well in the Hamp show as he got the breed champion. Parker Gillespie did well at the Durcoc show, winning the breed championship there as well. Abby Polnack won the PeeWee Showman.



Grady Miles and Sydney Montgomery both championed in their breed, but Grady got another reserve in a different class. Braxton Hoelscher and Hallee Montgomery also got 1st in their lamb class. Abby Polnack again won the PeeWee showman. Braxton Hoelscher stood out in the goat show as he got reserve in Division 2. Everyone who competed in the rabbit show, Nellie Smith stood out as she got Chamtion junior rabbit showman. Braxton Barkley did his own work on the ag-mec side as he won the Grand Champion Exotic Animal Working Chute.

Now, Highland students are headed near and far for more stock showing, so keep an eye out for more FFA stories. Way to go, Highland ag students, and to Mr. Wehba, for all of their hard work.

Hitting the Runway

Story by: Chloe Kruser

On February 14th, the juniors hosted a very memorable prom night. It was filled with music, dancing, and even some corn hole. The event took place at the Hall Law Firm, and the juniors truly brought the Hollywood theme to life. From all the beautiful decorations to the amazing food and soda bar, they made it a great night for everyone. Mason Taylor was crowned prom king and Chloe Kruser was our prom queen! The prom was a great success, giving everyone a chance to make long-lasting memories before the school year ends. Thanks to Mrs. Boil, Mrs. Lay, and all of the parents who made it a wonderful evening.



Thespians of the Theater



Story by: Cooper Cain

The One Act Play team, led by Highland teacher and OAP director Mrs. Merryman, is performing in the play "The Hidden Kennady," and has led the Highland team to two events this year. The acting and stage crew have gotten much praise from their judges. Some have said that this Highland OAP team is coming along with their story of the Kennedy family, having a strong start and only needing some adjustments here and there before they take the stage for District on March 9th. This clinic at Clyde gave the actors valuable feedback that they will no doubt take to heart and use to get better and better.

High School Hornets Earn Playoff Berths to Continue Season



Story by: Rhyder Glass

The Highland girls' basketball team wrapped up an exciting and hard-fought season, earning a trip to the playoffs and showcasing resilience from start to finish. Highland finished the year with a 13–12 overall record, battling through a schedule filled with tough, competitive games. Many contests came down to the wire, highlighting the team's grit and determination on both ends of the floor. Their hard work paid off with a playoff berth, where they advanced to the bi-district round. In that game, Highland put up a strong fight but ultimately fell by a score of 43–34. Although the season ended sooner than hoped, the effort and competitiveness shown throughout the year were clear. Overall, this season was marked by growth, toughness, and a never-quit attitude. The experience gained and battles fought lay a strong foundation for the future of Highland girls basketball.

The Highland boys basketball team wrapped up an outstanding season with an impressive 19–14 overall record, showcasing growth, resilience, and teamwork from the first tip-off to the final buzzer. This year's squad set the tone early with their intensity on defense and unselfish play on offense. Game after game, the team demonstrated their ability to battle through adversity, close out tight contests, and compete with every opponent on the schedule.

Season Highlights include: a winning record, finishing 19–14 which marks one of the strongest seasons in recent years, competitive spirit: The boys consistently played hard, kept games close, and never backed down from a challenge, and team chemistry: From starters to bench players, everyone contributed in key moments throughout the season. Beyond the wins and losses, this season was defined by growth. Players improved their skills, communication, and leadership, while representing Highland with class and sportsmanship. Practices were intense, film sessions were focused, and it showed every time the team stepped onto the court. The coaching staff also played a huge role in guiding the team, preparing game plans, and helping players develop confidence in their roles. Their commitment to the program has helped build a strong foundation for the future. With a 19–14 record as the new standard, Highland boys basketball is heading in an exciting direction. Younger players gained valuable experience, and returning athletes now know what it takes to compete at a high level. The program is hungry to build on this success next season. Congratulations to the players, coaches, families, and fans who supported Highland boys basketball all year long. This 19–14 season is a testament to hard work, dedication, and belief in one another—and it's only the beginning of what's to come for Highland basketball.

Junior High Athletes Say Goodbye to Basketball Season



Story by: Zech Stuber

The junior high boys' basketball team showed determination and growth throughout a challenging season, finishing with 5 wins out of 14 games. While the record doesn't tell the whole story, each game highlighted their improvement in teamwork, communication, and hustle. The players worked hard in practice, learned new plays, and adjusted to tough competition. Their five victories were earned through strong defense, smart passing, and never giving up, even when the score was close. The team also showed great sportsmanship, encouraging each other and respecting their opponents. Coaches were proud of the effort and attitude the boys displayed from the first tip-off to the final buzzer. This season laid a strong foundation for the future, and with the experience they gained, the team is poised to come back even stronger next year.

The junior high girls' basketball team had a strong and exciting season, finishing with 8 wins out of 14 games. Their hard work in practice showed every time they stepped on the court. The girls improved their ball-handling, shooting, and defensive skills as the season went on, and their record reflects that growth. Many of their wins came from tough, close games where they refused to give up and fought hard until the final buzzer. The team communicated well, supported each other, and showed great sportsmanship to opponents, officials, and fans. Coaches were proud of their effort, positive attitudes, and how they represented their school. With a winning record and so much improvement, this season built a solid foundation for the future. The experience and confidence they gained will help them be even more competitive and successful in the years to come.

Our Nights Are Booked



Family Night on February 18th was a great success and brought in many families to look at what the Book Fair had to offer! It gave parents a chance to bond with their kids and share this special moment with them.

It was a lot of fun for the kids who always love to see what is available to buy, with tons of amazing books and gadgets for them to explore and take home as their own. The book Fair was a perfect place for kids to spark a love for reading and have fun with their friends! Thank you to Mrs. Bankhead and all of the volunteers who helped!

Story by: Chloe Kruser

It was an exciting adventure at the Highland Book Fair this year! The fair took place from February 17th to 20th in the library.

Hitting New Heights in Houston



Story by: Carson Wright

On February 6th, the robotics team headed to Houston after the school held a send-off to compete in the State robotics competition. They competed on February 7th and placed in the semi-finals. This is the farthest Highland has gone in robotics, and the community couldn't be any prouder of them for it. The team consisted of Mason Taylor, Corren Wright, Max Shipp, Sam Gratehouse, Marcus Johnson, Andrew Stuber, Brodey Baxter, and Wyatt McDonell. While in Houston, they had the opportunity to visit the Houston Space Center after their exciting robotics competition. The boys are gearing up for two more events, so keep an eye out for their continued accomplishments.

Highlighting the Hornets



DARTT KING

Story by: Brandt Skoviera

Dartt is an exceptional student here at Highland. His teacher Mrs. Oliver, has chosen him as a student highlight for the past six weeks. He is the oldest of three, with little brothers Allen and Deacon, and his birthday is in November. He enjoys spending time with his friends. His favorite subject is math, and he is really smart.

He loves Mrs. Martin's class, and that is his favorite teacher. He loves playing soccer, his favorite color is purple, and he loves to eat pizza whenever he has the chance. He said that he doesn't listen to much music, but when he does, he likes to listen to pop. Dartt has been a part of Highland since starting school and is always showing why he is a great Hornet. His teachers agree that he is a wonderful student. Great work, Dartt! Keep up the good work.



Lily Gratehouse has been nominated by her teachers as one of the best students this past six weeks in the junior high. She is a 7th grader, and her mom is a school board member, while her older brother Sam is a junior here at Highland. Her dad works at Ludlum's on radiation detectors. She said that her favorite subject is math and her favorite teachers are Mrs. Shipp and Mrs. Merryman. She is a very excellent student who gets good grades in her classes and never gets in trouble most of the time. Her favorite color is pink and she likes cats and giraffes.!



LILY GRATEHOUSE

Story by: Davis Drake

Lily says that she also likes to eat carrots, which is somewhat unusual since most kids don't like vegetables. Way to go, Lily, on being chosen this past six weeks as a great student at Highland!

