THE SWARM

2nd Six Weeks Edition

Volume 3, Issue 2

Highland Holds the Jackpot

Story by: Elyn Baker

Last weekend, the Highland Hilltop Jackpot Stock Show was hosted at the Sweetwater Coliseum. The show turned out to be a great competition, including exhibitions of 168 swine, 86 goats, and 36 lambs. Highland students of all ages were represented at the Show, the youngest being in Pre-K to the sophomore class.

This event gets students ready for the show season, gaining experience of working with their animals and learning what judges are looking for. Hopefully, the Highland agriculture current and future students gained a lot of knowledge and enjoyed the experience.

A big thank you to all the exhibitors, parents, and volunteers who helped make this event possible. We look forward to continuing this Jackpot next year!







Hilltop Homecoming

Story by: Ashlyn Dunn

Highland ISD celebrated its annual Homecoming with a week of school spirit and excitement as community members came together to honor this tradition and show their support for Highland. A few highlights of the celebration included the homecoming parade, the pep rally where they recognized each nominee, and the crowning of Sydney Montgomery as homecoming queen and Jaxton Fullwood as king. Jimmy and Cherry Wright were also crowned as the homecoming king and queen. The Homecoming festivities recognized both students and alumni, making it a memorable moment for them and their families. Highland's homecoming is a great opportunity for the Highland community to come together, celebrate school traditions, and make lasting memories. Congratulations to Sydney and Jaxton on receiving this special honor!







In a Pickle(ball)

Story by: Brodie Wilson

The Sophomore class of 2029 hosted a pickleball tournament on October 17 as one of their fundraisers for Carnival. There was great competition, with a wide range of teams, such as student teams and adult teams. Twelve teams showed up, with the winners being Colter and Clinton Williams. The fundraiser was overall a success.

Upcoming Events

- Nov 2: School holiday
- Nov 3: Zoo field trip (PK/K/1st), Adopt a Hornet hot dog meal
- Nov 5: When I Grow Up pep rally, JH football game, JH Crowning
- Nov 6: College pep rally, Varsity football @ Baird
- Nov 7: HS Girl's basketball vs Hawley
- Nov 9: Thanksgiving lunch, FFA District LDE
- Nov 10: Safety City field trip (3rd)
- Nov 11: STEAM field trip (3rd-5th), PTO Popcorn and Pouches
- Nov 13: HS Girl's basketball vs Eden
- Nov 17: HS Boy's basketball vs Bronte
- Nov 20: Early release, HS Boy's basketball vs Rovert Lee
- Nov 24-25: Girl's Albany Tournament
- Dec 1: HS Boy's basketball @ Roby
- Dec 3-5: HS Boy's Bronte Tournament

The Elementary Game Plan

Story by: Allie Stein

On September 26th, our elementary kids played peewee football games. The PreK-1st grade girls did cheer and twirl routines while the boys played punt, pass, and kick with all of the senior boys as coaches. Second- and third-grade girls did cheer and twirl routines, while the boys played flagged football. T

The white team had seniors Brayden, Brodey, and Bryson as their coaches, while the blue team, who won the game, had seniors Aikman and Rhyder as their coaches. The fourth- and fifth-grade girls had both cheerleaders and twirlers who did some great routines while the boys played flag football. Both boys' teams tied at the end of the game. For the 2nd & 3rd games, Aikman & Rhyder's team, aka the blue team, won, while the 4th and 5th grades tied.









Little Hoopers

Story by: Drew Muncy

Pee Wee basketball was put on by the junior class this year on the 13th of October, letting the elementary kids show off their skills. Pre-K through 1st grade showed what the Highland Hornet spirit was about with their dribbling and shooting skills. The juniors took over in the leadership roles, displaying their coaching skills with the 2nd through 5th grade kids as they battled it out in a blue and white team display. The 2nd and 3rd graders split into two teams, one for boys and one for girls, and fought it out with all they had. The 3rd and 4th graders did the same, as everybody gave their very best in a Highland Hornet showdown.

The fundraiser also offered a silent auction for items to benefit the juniors and was a big success. Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and supported the event.









Running Like the Wind

Story by: Elliott Eaker

The Highland cross-country team just ended their season with a bang. The junior high boys were district runner-up, and the girls ran solidly. On the high school end, the team performed very well at the District contest, with the high school boys' team placing 1st and the girls' team placing 4th. In the high school boys' team, Hudson Cain placed 7th, Elliott Eaker placed 8th, Sam Gratehouse placed 9th, and Jagger Fullwood placed 10th, with Ayden Peacock and Rhett Glass also contributing to the team's success. On the girls' side, Hallee Montgomery placed 6th and advanced to regionals, along with the entire boys' team. All of the Highland runners ran like the wind at regionals, but it sadly wasn't enough to advance to state. Congratulations on a great season, runners!

The Power of Pink and All of the Lights

Story by: Will Tomlin

Two highly anticipated pep rallies happened over the past six weeks: the Pink Out and black light. For the Pink Out rally, Jennie Dodd spoke about her journey through breast cancer and the battles she faced and still faces every day. Through her message, she is raising awareness for that type of cancer. In addition, the cheerleaders also did their annual letter spelling with pom poms. The next Friday, the black light pep rally combined junior high and high school. The cheerleaders got to use their new light-up chant boards. The twirlers got to use light-up batons, which have become highly anticipated throughout the year. Elementary students especially love the black light party and using their light-up wands. Both were filled with energy and led to Hornet wins.







Junior High Closes Out a Challenging Season

Story by: Sy Borders

The Highland Junior High football team played at home for their second district game against the Paint Rock Indians, where they got back on track with a victory- their first victory in district play- with a score of 48-0, on the back of Amrin Delora, who had multiple touchdowns. The defense also stood out, working hard to not allow any points on the scoreboard. The next game, the team traveled to Santa Anna to take on the Mountaineers. This game proved to be a challenge, and they lost 27-0. Offense struggled a bit to get on the board, but the defense only allowed a few touchdowns on the other side.

The Hornets are back on the road to take on Robert Lee Steers at the time of this issue's publication. The Hornets are looking to bounce back and get their second district victory. Crowning night will be on November 5th, and we will say goodbye to another season. It's been a fast and furious fall, and everyone looks forward to when another one will roll around again.

District Defending

Story by: Kaison McCorkle

The Highland Hornets have started district play and are undefeated this year through the 3 games that they've played so far. They have beaten Santa Anna, Paint Rock, and Bronte this year by a good margin. They beat Bronte 69 - 28 after a disappointing first half and a resounding second half. Then, the Hornets beat the Paint Rock Indians in a very one-sided game that ended with the score 58 - 12.

Lastly, the Hornets' most recent game against Santa Anna was a defensive thriller. No points were allowed until the end of the 2nd quarter, and multiple interceptions gave us a commanding win over the Mountaineers with a score of 60 - 14. The Hornets are battling Robert Lee this week at home to defend their undefeated district record and win the district this year, and will close out their season with a game against Baird. This game will also be crowning for the high school. Come out and support our Hornets as we wrap up another exciting regular season and hopefully say "hello" to a playoff berth.







Halloween on the Horizon

Story by: Ms. Hamlin



Halloween may look a little different in some households, but the tradition of the holiday is rooted in one core thing: candy.

A bag of candy runs a bit more than usual these days, so the urge to eat it all may be prevented by not purchasing it at all. But those of you who do know the compulsion is strong and that sometimes when trick-or-treaters show up at the door, offering might be a bit slim. Happy Halloween, Highland!

Pumpkin Patch Fun

Story by: Avrie Hermosillio

On October 21st, 2nd grade went to the pumpkin patch at Lamar Street Baptist Church in Sweetwater to enjoy the pumpkins and play games. They have done this in past years, too. The students enjoyed looking at the pumpkins and playing outside at some of the attractions.
It was a wonderful way to spend a fall day.



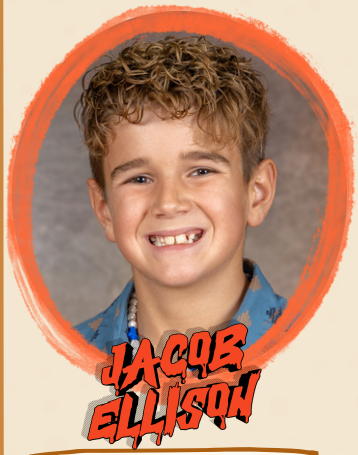


Hard Hats in Maryneal

Story by: Avrie Hermosillio

On Wednesday the 21st, the 6th grade took a trip to Buzzi to learn about what the workers do. They got to tour the place and see what happens each day at a cement plant. The 6th graders have been going to Buzzi in Maryneal for a few years. It has become a tradition for Highland and shows the students different careers.

Highlighting the Hornets



No tricks here. For the elementary, our Hornet Highlight is none other than Jacob Ellison! Jacob is in third grade this year and has a sister, Charlotte, in kindergarten. His mom Amy is a hairstylist and his dad Justin works in the natural gas industry.

When Jacob isn't at school, he loves the outdoors.

From dirt bike and four wheeler, playing in mud puddles, or climbing trees, Jacob does it all. He is also a big fan of baseball and soccer.

Hanging out with his friends is another of his favorite pasttimes, with his buddie group being Drake, Kal, Tru, and Cohen. If one of them isn't at his house on the weekends, it is a quiet one for sure.

Jacob is also a big animal lover. So much, in fact, that he owns a pet snake, a bearded dragon, and three dogs-one of which is a new puppy named Teddy!

Keep up the hard work and being an awesome Highland Hornet, Jacob!



Story by: Ms. Hamlin

The Hornet Highlight for secondary this past six weeks is none other than Noah Davis, junior.

This is Noah's first year at Highland and he is making it a memorable one. He has done an awesome job in English class, so that is why he was chosen.

He says that in his free time, he likes to play piano and organ, which he does for his church. He is a big family guy and loves to be with them, as well as going hunting. His favorite food is the tasty combo of red beans and rice. As for music, Noah is a bit of an old soul and likes jazz and gospel. He says that moving to Highland has taken some getting used to, but he feels like he is making his way. Changing schools was tough, but I made the decision to come to Highland." He is one of five, a family of four boys and one sister. While brother Ben also attends Highland, the rest are home schooled.

Way to go, Noah, on being the 2nd six weeks Hornet!