



School improvements ahead

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- » Resurface parking lots
- » Expand high school tech for Project Lead the Way

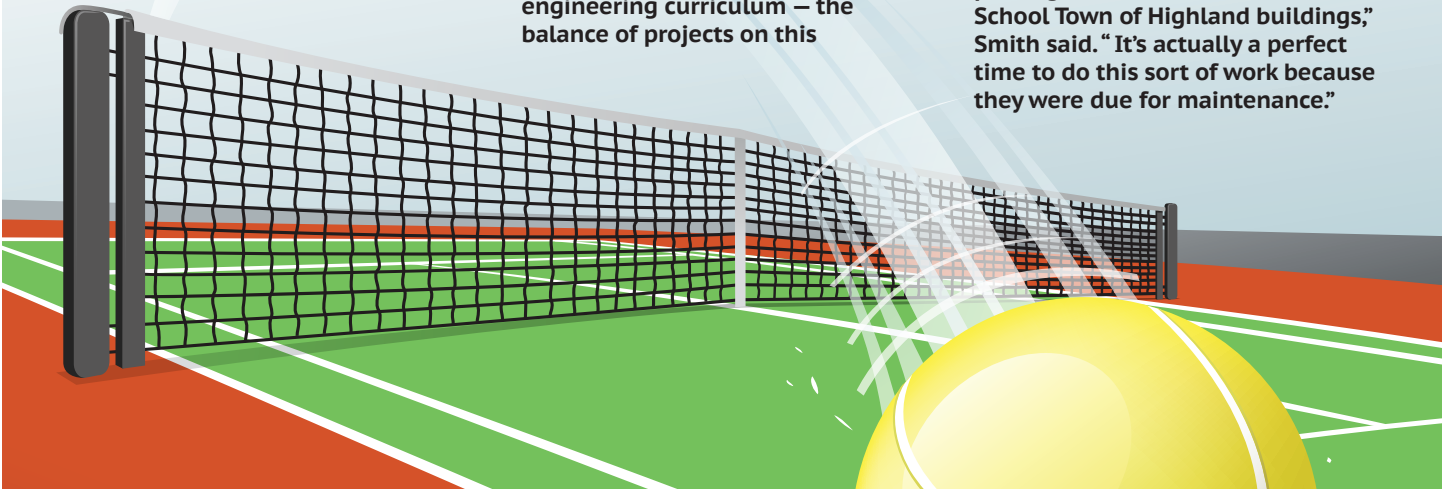
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The 2019 Highland graduate died after being hit by a car in August. The high school standout in academics, sports and being an all-around beloved friend to all was preparing to enter his junior year at Wabash College.

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ADMINISTRATION

Brian Smith
Superintendent
bsmith@highland.k12.in.us

Dr. Sherri Mitchell
Asst. Superintendent
smitchel@highland.k12.in.us

Ryan Erdelac
Human Resources Director
rerdelac@highland.k12.in.us

Cindy Adams
Chief Financial Officer
cadams@highland.k12.in.us

Lisa Hayes
Food Service Administrator
lhayes@highland.k12.in.us

Andrea Warner
District Nurse Coordinator
awarner@highland.k12.in.us

Kris Besch
Special Education Director
kbesch@highland.k12.in.us

Mike Sukta
Facilities Manager
msukta@highland.k12.in.us

Norbert Schlessner
Transportation Manager
nschless@highland.k12.in.us

John Zack
Highland High School Principal
jzack@highland.k12.in.us

Justin Fronek
Highland Middle School Principal
jfronek@highland.k12.in.us

Amy Harrington
Johnston Elementary Principal
aharring@highland.k12.in.us

Eric McMahon
Merkley Elementary Principal
emcmahon@highland.k12.in.us

Kevin Beveridge
Southridge Elementary Principal
kbeverid@highland.k12.in.us

Christina Davis
Warren Elementary Principal
cdavis@highland.k12.in.us

SCHOOL BOARD

Robert Kuva, President
Victor A. Garcia, Vice President
Patrick Krull, Secretary
Luanne Jurczak, member
Allencia Ballard, member

The school board meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Administration Building, 9145 Kennedy Avenue, Highland.

INFO: Visit highland.k12.in.us for the latest information, including meeting agendas, school policies, board mission, beliefs and values.



Free summer meal program will be offered in-person at school cafeterias, town locations

The summer meal program for children 18 and younger is a go!

Food Service Administrator Lisa Hayes said the School Town is operating under a plan that designates sites where meals will be served each weekday.

"It is still possible that the USDA will extend waivers to make it easier to access meals curbside or where children do not have to be present, but we won't know the final details for a few more weeks," Hayes said. "No matter what the final options are, the STOH food service department hopes all of our families will again take advantage of free meals

during the summer. Highland Parks continues to be an important partner and with their assistance, we will be able to set up a site at Main Square Park as well as provide meals at Lincoln center for their summer camp program."

Meals are also planned at Merkley and Johnston elementary schools. Additional sites may be added yet this spring.

INFO: More information, including, meals sites, dates, and times of our daily meal distributions will be available in the next edition of the Trojan Today as well as on our website, social media and flyers in the weeks to come!

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

"From a box-office smash to a fundraising record, our students, staff and foundation members crushed it!"

We began our trek to spring with incredible achievements by our students and an abundance of activities that were – in a word – outstanding.

Lion King Junior: Kudos to Matt Domasica, David Markley, the cast and crew of Lion King Junior, which broke box office records for the single-night production. It was a delightful performance that surpassed every expectation. It also marked the first time in recent history where the cast combined the talents of both middle and high school students.

Trivia Night: Another high five to the Highland Education Foundation for its most recent Trivia Night which was held for the first time at the Lincoln Community Center Banquet Hall. The event raised the most ever for an HEF event – about \$10,000. Those donations will be used to provide scholarships to teachers for projects that further education in the classroom.

Optional masks: As we sprint toward the close of another school year, our students are busier than ever before with masks optional for the first time in two years. It's interesting to note that a majority of our high school students – when given that option – have chosen to remain masked while our younger students are increasingly choosing to be unmasked. In both cases, those choices are working out just fine. Our elementary school teachers have told me how delighted they are to be able to see their students' expressive faces.

Class of 2022: Congrats to our seniors as they enjoy the final days of high school and look forward to the next chapter in their young lives. We wish the class of 2022 hearty congratulations and great happiness as they move forward to change the world.



Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland

HIGHLAND HIGH ATHLETICS



Garrett Lewis (middle) considers himself blessed that whenever he has needed a guide runner on the cross-country course, there have been plenty of volunteers offering to help. [photo provided]

Blindness doesn't stop Highland High cross-country runner from competing

When Garrett Lewis watched his older brother, Ethan, train and compete in cross-country, it seemed only natural he would follow in his footsteps – literally.

From the Highland Invitational to its New Prairie counterpart, the brothers competed in the region's signature events – in separate years but with the same goal.

Garrett, now a high school junior, said it never occurred to either of them that running at high speeds when they couldn't see the course was beyond their reach.

The brothers have the same genetic mutation that results in severe vision impairment or blindness, known as Leber Congenital Amaurosis.

"I recognize that I have a disease

that impairs my vision," he said. "That doesn't stop me from trying."

To make the magic happen, Lewis trains with teammates. During meets, he has a guide runner.

"My line of vision is off, which makes it so I see better from the periphery," he explained. "When I transition from shade to light, they call out the routes, which has been awesome."

The family mantra of trying extends to ax-throwing and archery, martial arts where he is a probationary black belt and playing the drums.

"Staying active and in-the-moment has been great," he said. "Throughout my life, my parents, teachers in academics, sports and extra-curriculars have always believed there was nothing I couldn't do. I believe that, too."

STATE QUALIFIERS

Congratulations to seniors Logan Opilka and Jesse Herrera, who will go down in the record books as state qualifiers in their respective sports.

After just three years in the pool, Opilka, a captain on the Highland team, qualified for the IHSAA diving state finals, where he finished 29th on the one-meter board.

Herrera, who finished his prep wrestling career with 119 wins and 33 losses, had a standout senior year posting 33 wins and just three losses in the 170-pound weight class. His performance at state made him one of the top 16 wrestlers in his weight class in Indiana this year.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school program at the K-5 level will be held at Johnston Elementary School this year. Free breakfast and lunch will be available to all students on the days summer school is in session:

IREAD remediation
May 31-June 10

PreK Summer Session
May 31-June 16 | July 18-August 4

Camp Invention
June 6-10

Jumpstart
July 18-August 4

INFO: Summer programs are filled by needs first and then availability. Questions? Email Ryan Erdelac at rerdelac@highland.k12.in.us.

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Freshman orientation will be held **Thursday, July 28**. Incoming students will meet based on their last names and time slots below:

A-GOM: 9-10:30 a.m.

GON-O: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

P-Z: 1-2:30 p.m.

If students are unable to attend during their scheduled time, please reach out to their guidance counselor for more information.

A-GOM: Amy Vezmar
avezmar@highland.k12.in.us

GON-O: Jason Quigg
jquigg@highland.k12.in.us

P-Z: Anne Lemon
alemon@highland.k12.in.us



HIGHLAND HIGH'S MONBECK AUDITORIUM

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee tells the story of an eclectic group of six quirky kids who are competing in the spelling championship of a lifetime.

While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming “ding” of the bell that signals a spelling mistake.

**Six spellers enter; one speller leaves!
At least the losers get a juice box.**

7 PM FRIDAY, MAY 6
7PM SATURDAY, MAY 7
2 PM SUNDAY, MAY 8

HighlandTheatreCompany.org
FOR TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION

**TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW!**

CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

Get a jump on your graduation, Mother's Day or Father's Day gift shopping at the Highland Band Boosters' Spring Craft & Vendor Fair.

Help support the School Town of Highland bands. This year's event features an amazing collection of talented artists, crafters and vendors. Join in on the raffle fun and stop by the bake sale table for a sweet treat.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **April 30**

WHERE: Highland Middle School, 2941 41st Street

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: highlandbandbooster@gmail.com.

SPRING CONCERTS

Join us as we celebrate spring with performances from our high school choir and our high school and middle school musical ensembles.

MS/HS BAND CONCERT:
6:30 p.m. **April 12**

MS/HS ORCHESTRA CONCERT:
6:30 p.m. **May 10**

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR:
6:30 p.m. **May 11**

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR:
6:30 p.m. **May 12**

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High School, 9135 Erie St.

ADMISSION: Free

2022 COMMENCEMENTS

Seniors will take to the Highland High School football field at 6 p.m. Tuesday, **June 6** for an in-person graduation ceremony. The rain date is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, **June 8**.

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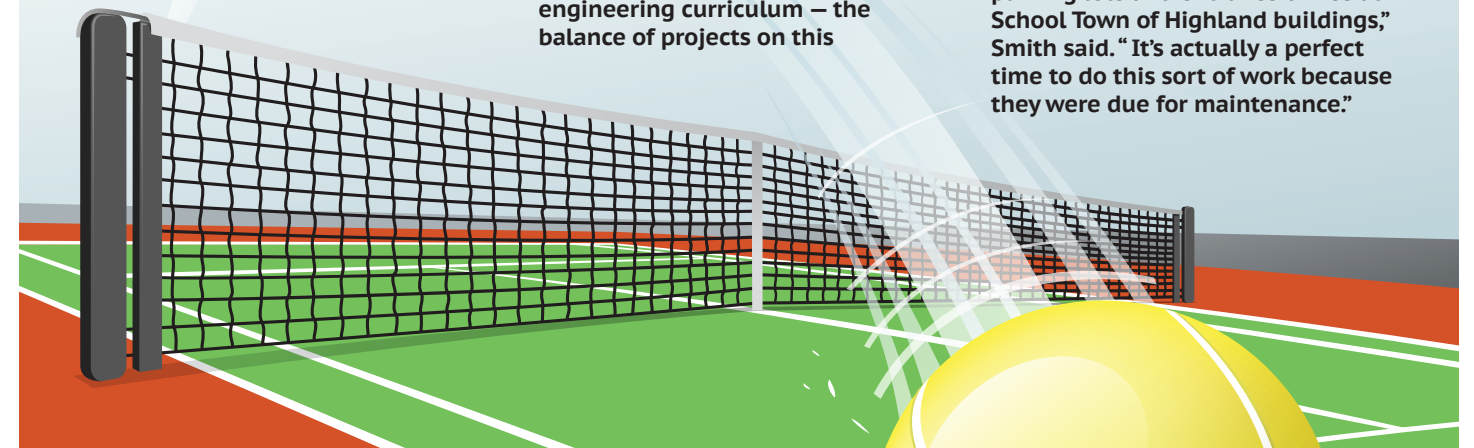
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