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Today's Weather

Thursday		Sunny	High: 87
14		Low: 64	
Friday		Sunny	High: 90
15		Low: 65	
Saturday		Mostly sunny, slight chance of AM rain	High: 82
16		Low: 58	Precip: 20%
Sunday		Mostly sunny	High: 77
17		Low: 54	
Monday		Partly sunny	High: 73
18		Low: 53	

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HHS event to raise funds for parking lot

By Brian Sanders

This weekend, the east parking lot at Holton High School will become a little more colorful.

HHS sophomores, juniors and seniors are picking out designs this week to paint in parking spaces in the east lot as part of an effort to raise funds for parking lot maintenance at the school, particularly in the parking lot located east of the school building and across the street from the football field.

Principal Jeremy Truelove said that the event, known as "Parking Spaces" and scheduled for this Saturday, Aug. 23, will also give students "a pretty cool way" to express themselves.

"The proceeds will go toward parking lot maintenance," Truelove said. "We've got some areas of the parking lot that need some attention, particularly where there are potholes and also in the gravel parking lot on the east side."

The school's SAFE (Seatbelts Are For Everyone) organization is sponsoring the event, and Truelove said that Saturday's event, which is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m., was suggested by a member of that organization.

"When we'd go to other schools, we'd see that they had parking spots painted," Truelove said. "The students brought it to me and said, can we do something like this? I told them we needed to find an organization to run it through, and it fit really well with SAFE."

About 200 parking spots are up for grabs in the east parking lot, and Truelove said Saturday's event will involve "as many as we can sell," although parking spots will still be available for those who don't buy a spot.

Once the parking spots have been painted, those spots will

belong to the students who painted them during the school day for the 2025-26 school year. The parking spots will be open to anyone for school events that take place after school hours during after-school activities, practices, meetings, banquets and other events, it was reported.

Students who wish to participate in Saturday's event will be charged \$25 and assigned a designated parking space where they can paint a design of their choosing, as long as it's school-appropriate and similar to the school's dress code, with no offensive language or images, Truelove said.

"When I've seen this done at other schools, they might have something like a volleyball player painting a net and a volleyball, or if a student's into fishing, they'll have a fishing pole," he said. "They're just ways to express themselves."

Saturday's paint work will begin with the application of a "base coat" that students can paint over, Truelove said. Parking spots will be assigned to seniors, juniors and sophomores by random drawing, and spots will be assigned to students who have paid their \$25 fee and submitted an approved design.

Painting supplies are the responsibility of participating students, who are required to purchase those supplies in advance of Saturday's event. All painting must be completed by 8 p.m., it was reported.

The extent of parking lot repairs, to be done in the spring, depends on the number of parking spots claimed in Saturday's event, Truelove said.

"The SAFE group will work with our maintenance director to decide which company we'll go through to fix our potholes," he added.

Small mill rate increase proposed for USD 377

The Atchison County Community USD 377 Board of Education is proposing a small mill rate increase to fund the district's 2025-26 budget, it has been reported.

The board is proposing a budget funded by 43.858 mills, which is an increase of .108 mill from last year's rate of 43.750 mills.

The proposed rate is above the district's revenue neutral rate of 43.777.

The district's overall assessed valuation has been set at \$91,224,077, which is a \$1,927,664 increase from last year's assessed valuation of \$89,296,413.

The proposed budget is expected to generate a total of \$3,718,083 in local taxes, which is a \$153,992 decrease compared to the \$3,872,075 collected last year.

The proposed budget includes levying 20 mills for the general fund, 17.858 mills for

the Local Option Budget (LOB) and 6 mills for capital outlay.

The proposed budget includes a maximum budget authority of \$13,221,090 for the school year, which is a \$2,267,323 increase from last year's budget authority of \$10,953,767.

The proposed budget includes \$5,592,510 in the general fund, \$1,923,367 in the LOB fund and \$2,005,000 in capital outlay.

The district does not have any outstanding indebtedness.

Since the district is exceeding the "revenue neutral rate," a special RNR hearing will be held at 6:20 p.m. on Sept. 10 at the school in Effingham.

Following that hearing, the board will hold the regular public hearing for the proposed budget at 6:25 p.m.

The proposed budget is published on page 13 of this issue of *The Holton Recorder*.

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STOCKS

Description	Price at Close	Change
AT&T	28.99	+0.07
Lumen Tech.	4.595	-0.095
Lowe's	256.50	+5.61
Target	105.38	+0.43
Hershey	180.83	+2.43
Walmart	101.32	+0.62
Phillips 66	122.18	+0.54
US Bancorp	46.24	+0.13
Pfizer	25.32	+0.25
Deere & Co.	489.48	-1.65
United Parcel	87.76	+1.25
Apple	230.56	-0.33
Meta Platforms	751.48	-15.89
Goodyear	8.50	+0.11

Source: New York Stock Exchange trading reports. Prices listed at close of trading on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025.

GRAIN

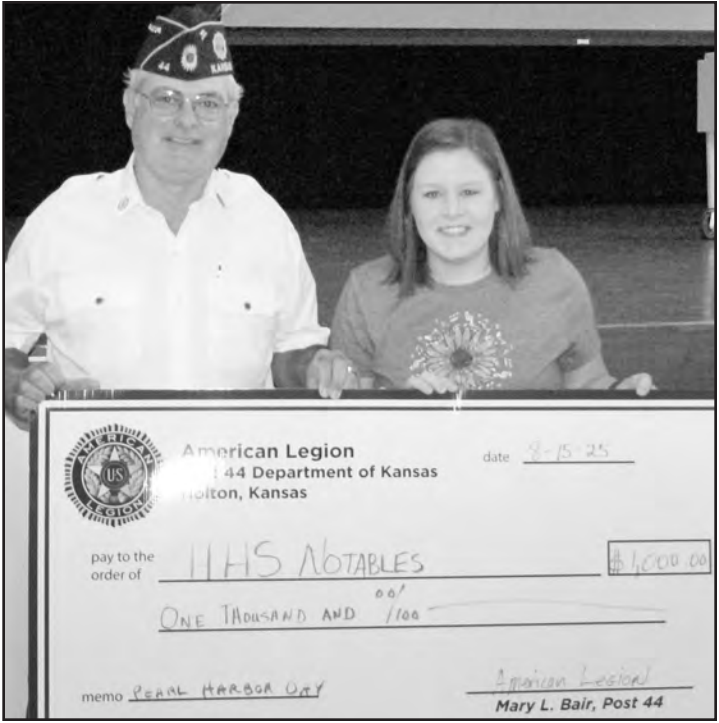
Description	Price at Close
Wheat	\$4.31
Corn	\$3.50
Milo	\$3.18
Soybeans	\$9.55

Source: Jackson Farmers Co-Op, Holton. Prices listed at close of trading on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025. Grain buying hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Cash bids subject to change without notice.

FUEL PRICES

	Current	Last Mo.	Last Year
Kansas Average	\$2.82	-\$0.037	-\$0.295
National Average	\$3.09	-\$0.046	-\$0.279
Holton Average	\$2.85		

Source: GasBuddy.com. Current prices listed as of Monday, Aug. 18, 2025.



Holton High School vocal music teacher Alyssa Wendel received three checks on Friday morning from Holton veterans groups to help send the HHS Notables and Concert Choir to Hawaii in December. In the top photo, Wendel is shown at left with Holton VFW Post 1367 Adjutant Tim Unrein (at right), who presented Wendel with a check for \$3,500. The photo above shows Wendel (at right) receiving a check for \$1,000 from Mary L. Bair American Legion Post 44 Commander Rob Wareham. The Veteran Defenders, a local group of relatives and descendants of veterans, also presented Wendel with a check for \$500. Photos by Brian Sanders

Trip to Hawaii...

Continued from Page 1

Wendel said she had received an invitation last fall to send students to Pearl Harbor to perform this December at ceremonies related to the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. She set to work calculating the cost of the trip and contacted local businesses and organizations about raising funds or making donations toward the trip.

"I'm excited for the kids to get to experience something like that and actually be standing in history," said Wendel, who noted that she had visited the USS Memorial in Pearl Harbor once before. "It's one thing to learn about things in a textbook, but until you can actually go and experience something like that,

it's hard to truly understand and know what happened on Dec. 7, 1941."

Recently, a talent show was held at the HHS auditorium as a benefit for the singing groups, and Wendel said about \$1,600 was raised during the show. Other upcoming fund-raising events include a mattress sale this Sunday in the HHS gym, a dinner during HHS homecoming festivities on Friday, Oct. 3 and a dinner show to be held at some point in the near future.

Anyone wishing to make a donation toward the trip may do so by bringing a check or cash to the HHS office, with checks made out to Holton High School and "Hawaii Trip" on the memo line, Wendel said.

District contributes to classified staff health care

The Holton school board, at its Monday, Aug. 11 meeting, approved new health care insurance group rates from Blue Cross/Blue Shield for classified staff. Rates were increased 12.75 percent this year for the group plan (an average of \$67 per month increase) that spans from October through September.

It was learned too late for last week's board meeting report that the district contributes \$450 monthly toward all 10-month classified employees' premiums, \$490 monthly toward 10-month secretaries' single and employee/spouse premiums, \$675 monthly toward 10-month secretaries' employee/child and employee/family premiums, \$540 monthly toward 12-month classified employees' single and

employee/spouse premiums and \$760 monthly toward 12-month classified employees' employee/child and employee/family premiums, it was reported.

The deductible for the group rates is \$6,350, it was announced. Only 12 out of the estimated 120 classified staff (non teacher staff) are enrolled in the health care plan, it was noted. The new monthly rates will be as follows - single plan \$630.86 per month, employee/child plan \$1,276.77 per month, employee/spouse \$1,354.62 per month and family \$2,000.52 per month.

Board members said the issue of high health care premiums for this group plan clearly needed to be addressed and studied now so that better options could be offered next year.

The board also discussed what to do when a newly hired certified staff person accepts a position with the district, signs a statement of understanding, receives official board hiring approval but then later withdraws and leaves to work elsewhere before the start of the school year.

Board members asked that the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) be consulted to determine if the district has any recourse to impose penalties, for example. Board members said they would like to add this topic to the list of negotiated items with teachers for next year.

Note: This article is updated from an article that appeared in the Aug. 13, 2025 edition of *The Recorder*.

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