



# HOLYOKE DRAGON TIMES

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## FAMILY SUPPORT

By: Anna Hayes

HOLYOKE CO- Family support is an especially important virtue this time of year. There are many different types of family support. The definition of family support is differing according to different people. Many people consider their close friends as family. Sometimes your family support is negative and/or abusive to your mental health and physical health, so students should have positive friends and mentors available to go to for support. An example of positive family support is the ability to go to them for help with anything and they can help you overcome it. There are many different kinds of families. There's military families, foster families, adopted families, mixed families, An example of negative family support is having an abusive relationship with your parents or siblings, and having nobody believe that you are having those problems. Having friends or mentors at your school is always a great way to go if you are struggling with home life or school life and don't feel comfortable about talking to your parents about it. There is always someone to go to for help!



# Family Fun

## THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

By Krista Noffsinger

- Zoo Lights in Denver - Nov 29 - Dec 30 - 5:30 to 8:30 pm - Tickets \$15-\$20
- Ice skating
- 9News Parade of lights - Fri. Dec. 6th at 8 pm and Sat Dec 7th at 6 pm
- Make cookies - Pull out Grandma's cookie recipe and gather the kids to have a fun time making a mess and some yummy treats.
- Watch Christmas movies - Elf, A Christmas Story, Home Alone, and Santa Clause are great choices to start with.
- Snowball fight - This is always more fun with others. Ask the neighbors to join and fight family to family.
- Build a hot cocoa bar - These are delicious. Imagine all the things you could add to hot cocoa...peppermints, marshmallows, chocolate and so much more.
- Go to a Christmas tree farm - Tree Town Wonderland, in Denver.
  - Open 10am - 9pm Picking a tree out with the family is always fun. A fresh tree always smells so wonderful.
- Go sledding - While it is kinda flat out here in Holyoke, you don't have to travel far to find a good hill for your sled to slide down.
- Decorate gingerbread houses - There are many kits available out there or you can bake your own pieces. Either way it is fun to see everyone's' ideas.
- Go Christmas shopping - What is better than taking a day and driving to Denver with the family to spend some time shopping for those gifts on your list. Don't forget we have many local stores with great gifts too. It is always good to support our local businesses.
- Make a Christmas feast - Food is always on everyone's' minds during the holidays, why not spend some time with the family in the kitchen using family recipes to make a feast.
- Organize a secret Santa gift exchange - We always give to the family, but what about our friends? Organize a secret Santa gift exchange and have fun finding just the right gift.
- Listen to Christmas music - Let it snow, All I want for Christmas, mistletoe, and Santa's Coming to Town
- Wrap gifts - Start a gift wrapping party...many hands make light work. Just make sure you are not having someone wrap their own gift.



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

## REMMINGTON HEILSCHER

By Isaiah Reuter

HOLYoke CO- Remington Hielscher is a senior at Holyoke High School. Remington works a part-time job at the Ballyneal Hunt and Golf Club. Famous actor Tyler Perry had been golfing out there before. He is much like Garfield the cat because his favorite meal is lasagna, which he likes to wash down with an ice-cold Pepsi. Remington is an avid hunter. He loved duck hunting the most and has even started making his own duck calls, which he has been known to sell if you need a new one. He is also training a new hunting dog. During his spare time when he is not hunting, Remington can be found watching his favorite show, *Sherlock*. After Graduation, he will be attending Montana State University and work towards a degree that will help him be a game warden.



## FABIAN GONZALEZ

By Dahira Castillo

HOLYoke CO- Fabian Gonzalez is a senior this year. He plans on going to UNC in Greeley, Colorado and hopefully major in business. Fabian is pretty excited but also scared to graduate. One of his favorite high school memories is when he threw a Gatorade bottle at Mason and had to clean it up because it spilled. The advice he has for the Jr. High kids is to be on time, pay attention in class and to do your homework. If Fabian could talk to his freshman self he would say, "Pay attention in class and don't be scared to put yourself out there." He used to play basketball in his sophomore year and throughout half of his junior year. The easiest grade for Fabian was his freshman year because he didn't have lots of homework, freshman year was also his favorite. He will miss his 2020 classmates. He will also miss Mrs. Strecker. Something Fabian has learned in high school that made him grow as a person is that not everyone will be real with you. He regrets not enjoying every moment of school. Remember this is the last year with our seniors so enjoy every moment you have with them. Appreciate the rest of your school year seniors.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## Mrs. Strecker

By Sawyer Sigler

HOLYOKE CO-Mrs. Strecker teaches six classes, Ag Mechanics, Ag Business, Animal Science, Intro to Ag, Plant Science, and ICAP.. She has been teaching for four years as an Ag teacher. Mrs. Strecker went to Colorado State University for Ag. She had a great time at FFA nationals. It was fun and she had a great group of students to go with. Her year has been great and so much fun. Her favorite class to teach is animal science because she loves animals. Mrs. Strecker decided to teach because her Ag teacher influenced her. She wanted to do what her teacher did. She has wanted to teach since her freshman year of college. That is when she decided that teaching is what she wanted to do for a living. She was influenced by her Ag teacher and FFA was her when she was in school. FFA is what she loved to do so that also influenced her. Her favorite thing about teaching is making relationships with the kids. She also likes influencing the kids. Mrs. Strecker loves her students all equally. If there is anything that she would change about her classes it would be that she wants them to be smaller. If she didn't teach she would be a stay at home Corgi mom.



## Mrs. Nygaard

By Layna Wear

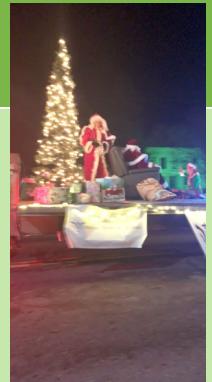
HOLYOKE CO-Mrs. Nygaard teaches something that most people don't know about. She doesn't really teach, she gives academic support to students in the JR/SR High School. She shares a classroom with Mrs. Grothman and Mrs. Brandt. No, they don't have all the same classes, they teach what their students need help with. They share the classroom because that's how the classroom dynamic is set up. She does enjoy sharing a classroom with them because they can team up to better meet the kids need. She decided to teach because she wanted to work with kids that need extra support in school. She realized she wanted to teach in high school. Her favorite class is English and she does not have a favorite student. She has been teaching for six years and if she couldn't teach she would like to work with animals.

# HOLIDAYS

## COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

By Elly Brown

HOLYOKE CO- Christmas songs rang in the minds of happy people from Phillips County as Christmas lights shone brightly in the crisp, cool night air while Holyoke's very own Country Christmas was being explored by many families. Country Christmas is an annual holiday festival that includes business sales, a free movie from the Peerless, a Parade of Lights, and a free will donation by the firemen for a free meal for the festival goers. After the Parade of Lights families would gather into the museum to get a picture with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Many business's made a profit during the festival including local and traveling business's



hosted by Viaero and the Peerless Theatre's gym. The Peerless also provided a free viewing of the movie Playing with Fire. The movie started at 4:30 with a turnout of approximately 74 people. Many people gathered in their vehicles or on foot on Intercean Avenue to view the exhilarating parade of lights. During the Parade of Lights the streets were showered with candy for sweet-toothed parade viewers. The parade lasted from 6:30 to 7:00. The whole festival was perfectly executed by welcoming the Christmas spirit into Holyoke to happily finish out the year.

## THE EVOLUTION OF CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

By Ben Kleve

HOLYKE, CO-Trees, wreaths, and lights galore. The Christmas season has snuck up on us. The Christmas decoration Idea was started in the 16th century by Germans who decorated fir trees inside their homes. From trees, the next transformation from trees was the Christmas



wreath. Fun fact the Tinsel was not always the plastic string it is now. The tinsel was invented in Germany in the 16 century. Instead of plastic, the tinsel was made of real silver. Christmas trees were often decorated with candles in Victorian times. Though the major insurance companies passed a ban on decorating your tree with candles because of all of the fires, many parts of Europe still do. Over the years, plastic variations of reindeer, stars, fruit, butterflies, birds and gingerbread men have evolved; from the cheap plastic types to the more expensive glass. This leads to the debate about whether a star or an angel has the 'right' to grace the top of the tree. Most 19th-century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. The first record of one being on display was in the 1830's by the German settlers of Pennsylvania.



# AROUND SCHOOL

## FOOTBALL

By Karlie Martin

LIMON CO- The Holyoke Dragons played the Limon Badgers for the semifinal game. The Dragons finished out the season with 11-1. Sadly, Limon pulled off with the win. The final score was 7-15 with Miles Sprague scoring the touchdown and Alexis Vega making the extra point. But, aside from that, Holyoke had an amazing season. Actually, one of the better seasons in a while. The first game we played was Haxtun, winning 34-0. Next, Colorado Springs Christian, winning 21-6. Next, beating Bridgeport, 28-6. Next, Highland with 24-21. Yuma with 34-0. Burlington with 35-18. Wray with 34-14.

Wiggins with 49-8. Then barely beat Limon with 14-12. Rocky Ford with the highest scoring points of the season, 57-6. Then Colorado Christian again winning by even more this time, 27-0. Then the final game was the only loss of the season against Limon with the score of 7-15. Overall, we had an outstanding season. But we will miss the seniors. However, the eighth graders will be coming up to hopefully fill in their shoes.



## TIPS FOR FINALS

By Estrella Quintana

HOLYKE CO -Finals are approaching and they may be tough for some students who struggle with some of their work during high school, college or if you are graduating from school. Here are some easy strategies to help you with finals.(1) Make your own study guide, although teachers provide study guides, making your own may help you understand the subject better. (2) Ask questions. Ask as many questions to your teachers; they are there to help you if you don't understand a problem, and so that you are prepared for your exams. (3) Attend the review lessons. It's better to attend lessons so you will understand better and review the test. (4) Stay well rested. Make sure you have enough rest so you can gain enough energy, so you can be well focused and learn more. (5) Study for your exam. It's more important if you study, so on the day you'll have the exam you won't have too much trouble on the

questions. (6) Study with a group. You can quiz each other and help each other study. Share each others notes. Rest as much as possible and practice so you will be more than ready.



# BREAKING NEWS

## SAVING THE EVERGLADES

By Areli Murillo

FLAMINGO, FL- The Everglades were formed over 5,000 years ago when sea levels were rising. The Everglades once made up of an area twice the size of New Jersey. According to the Denver Post, over the course of just the last century, about a half of the Everglades' original footprint has been lost- plowed under or paved over, never to be recovered, so long as South Florida's 8 million human inhabitants claim it for their homes, livelihoods, and recreation. Glades have been sapped by canals that remapped the landscape. People have labeled this place the "Disney Everglades." According to the Denver Post, nearly two decades and \$4 billion into the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, an ambitious federal-state program adopted in 2000, new data about the pace of climate change have called into question how much of the Everglades can ever be restored. Scientists estimated that more than 650 billion gallons of freshwater a year flowed to what is now a national park. Now, the flow is about 280 billion gallons. Huge tracks are being converted to help store and clean the water.



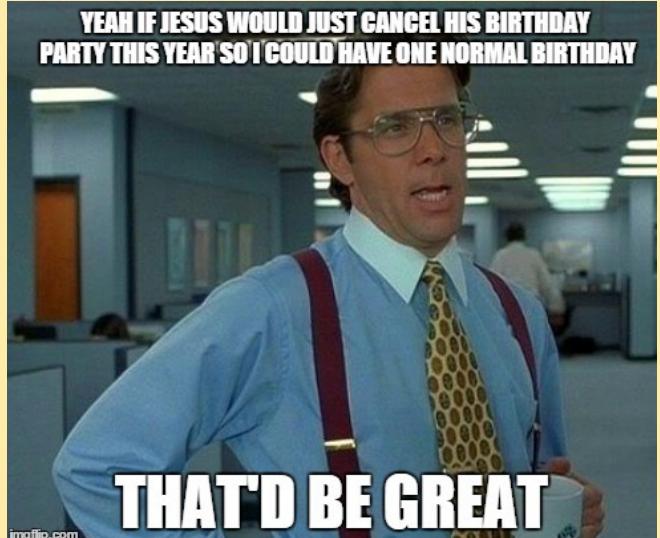
## Billie Eilish Concert 2020

By Grace Whisenhunt

DENVER CO- As part of her "Where Do We Go?" world tour, Billie Eilish will be playing at the Pepsi center. The tickets are currently sold out, but they will most likely become available again soon. The tickets start at \$189.00, but the price could differ depending on the seating or date they are purchased. The concert will take place on Wednesday, April 1st at 7:30. The concert itself starts at 7:30, but the doors open at 6:30. You might want to get there when the doors open, since the concert will be extremely busy and getting to your seat may be difficult. The cheapest tickets you could purchase are tickets for the lower balcony at \$214.83. The event will use mobile tickets only. You could purchase tickets by calling 866-461-6556 or visiting



# FUN PAGE



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DRAGON COUNTRY?

Saturday, December 7th- HS state cheer competition



HS BB Highland tournament @ Ault

HS WR @ St. Francis, KS

HS F Swim @ Valley

Monday, December 9th- JH/HS Choir concert



Tuesday, December 10th- FFA Christmas party

School board meeting 7pm

Thursday, December 12th- K, 2nd, and 4th Choral concert

Friday, December 13th- FCCLA Christmas party

