

#### **BLESSINGS**

Sophomore creates charity organization in memory of her late uncle Page 4

#### **LEADERS**

Four juniors serve as representatives on athletic league leadership group Page 10





**ELECTION** 

#### **Students express** opinions regarding presidential election

By McKena McBride Hays High Guidon

With the 2020 election results tallied, students have various opinions regarding the events during and after the election.

Students supporting different political parties agreed that the Democratic and Republican parties were very aggressive prior to a president elect being named.

"It was a nasty fight," senior Kai Kaufman said. "Trump parades and pro love/science/hope protests contradicted each other in the community."

During the most recent protest he attended. Kaufman said fellow citizens drove by them, yelling racial slurs and making inappropriate gestures through the windows of their vehicles.

"The fight is not over, but I'm certainly glad the election is," Kaufman said.

Some students said each side had a part of the messiness of this election.

"I think both parties have had their fair share of treating the others with disrespect," junior Shelby Alexander said.

Other students thought the arguments between Democrats and Republicans were, understandably, bitter.

"I think the viewpoints were drastically different," junior Elena Herl said. "I think everybody's political opinion is valid, but I don't think human rights should be a political discussion. Because this election had so much to do with human rights, the stakes were much higher for many minorities.'

Regarding whether Democrat Joe Biden winning was a positive or negative change, students had their opinions, too.

"It's probably not going to be as negative as some of the Trump supporters think it's going to be, and it's not going to be as positive as the Biden supporters think it will be," Alexander said.

Herl said she thinks Biden winning has could be a good thing for the country.

"As long as we uphold our duty as American citizens to hold our politicians and government accountable, I do truly believe that things could change for the better," Herl said. "It's important to go into this new presidency with the mindset that politicians are human as well and can and will make mistakes that others need to hold them accountable for.

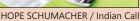
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**PREPARATION** 

# realityU

#### Simulation program shows how education now ties to future later







HOPE SCHUMACHER / Indian Call



HOPE SCHUMACHER / Indian Call

At the Reality U event on Nov. 4 in Gym A, sophomore Remy Stull visits the Student Loan table, sophomore Bradyn Dreher signs up for an extra job at the "Help, I Need More Money!" booth and sophomore Carly Lang checks into Childcare at that station. "I think it gave us a good visual of how reality is - and it is not as easy as you think," Lang said. "Plus, that baby would not stop crying!"

By Emry Lundy Hays High Guidon

On Wednesday, Nov. 4, sophomores had the chance to experience a possibility of their life at age 26, as they participated in Reality U at Hays High.

Reality U is a program designed to teach students how their focus, participation and work in school now can impact their futures later, while also allowing them to explore the realities of money and work in the world today.

Based on their Academy teachers, sophomores were assigned a class period to meet in Gym A. At the start of their time frame, they received a paper that detailed their career, income, taxes, marital status, children and animals, which was based on a survey that they did prior to the event that used their GPA and other information. The participants then explored 12 stations, attempting to get through each one

without their finances going negative.
"With the money that they make, either with their spouse or themselves, [students] have to go through the stations just like they were paying bills for a whole month to find out how much it actually costs to live," said assistant

principal Fred Winter, who organized the event at Hays High.

One such station was Childcare, where participants discovered the costs and the time needed to care for a child. The booth also had realistic crying babies that were placed in the care of various "parents" during portions of the event. When a student was given a child, that student was instructed to hold it as if holding a real child and to soothe its crying.

Other stations, such as Housing and Transportation, had a variety of homes and vehicles for the students to choose. They had to make the best decision based upon family size and income.

Most booths had no necessary order, but two were dependent on others. Students were to report to Utilities sometime after they bought their house to figure the extra costs for their chosen home. They also had to make their way to Insurance after they had visited Transportation for car, health and life insurance.

The stations for Clothing and Hair, as well as for Food, depended heavily on the size of family that the participants were assigned. A large shock for many students was the dent that eating out could put into their monthly income.

Students also had to account for

Phone and Fun, Student Loans, Emergency Funds and Investments and Unexpected Life Events in their budgets.

The last of the 12 booths was titled "Help, I Need More Money!" Here, students could get another job to increase their monthly income if they were struggling to keep their amount positive.

The Reality U event was sponsored by United Way and is led by the Pando Initiative. This organization's goal is to connect students and faculty, as well as encourage students to "engage and thrive in education and their future."

Patrick Sehl, a member of the Pando Initiative, directed students throughout the event, along with Winter, the school counselors, various community volunteers and Leadership Team members. At the close of the event, students were asked questions about what they learned, before receiving advice from several of those helping.

Sehl recounted his story - how he struggled in school, only to meet various teachers and educated adults who pushed him in school. Eventually, due to their encouragement, Sehl graduated with a doctorate. Now, he aims to pass these lessons on to students.

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**HONORS** 

## Veteran math teacher receives Master Teacher Award



CAYDEN SANDERS / The Guidon

Math instructor Jerold Harris teaches his Calculus class on Nov. 13. Harris received the Hays National Education Association (HNEA) Master Teacher Award for Hays High School.

By Maysyn Tippy Hays High Guidon

At the end of October, math teacher Jerold Harris received the Hays National Education Association (HNEA) Master Teacher Award for the Hays High School building.

Harris graduated with his Bachelor of Science degree in 1989 from Fort Hays State University, and he earned his Master of Science degree in 2004 from FHSU also.

Being certified to teach both mathematics and computer studies, Harris has been instructing high school students for a total of 31 years, with 24 of those years being at Hays High.

Before becoming a part of Hays High's staff, he taught at LaCrosse High School for seven years, but he said he has come to find Hays High very welcoming for multiple reasons.

"Hays High is a great place to teach," Harris said. "We have great leadership, an awesome teaching staff and a group of teachers that hold students accountable, but that also care about them and want them to be successful. Our students here work hard, and they are very courteous.'

Harris currently teaches Algebra II and Calculus, and he is an assistant coach for the cross country team.

USD 489's HNEA, which is the local chapter of the NEA, provides a Master Teacher Award for each of the district's schools every year.

The teaching staff votes for a colleague," Harris said. "Each school votes, and then each school selects their Master Teacher. So, Hays High has a Master Teacher, Hays Middle School and each grade school has a Master Teacher."

Harris said he was not expecting to win the award. "I was surprised and honored," Harris said. "Honored because I was voted by other teachers. Surprised because we have so many awesome teachers here at the high school."

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#### YOUR VIEW

How did you feel when you were quarantined, or how would you feel if you were quarantined?

"At first, it was sad because I missed Homecoming week, but after that, it was kind of nice to get a break and relax."

-senior Hope Kisner

"It would definitely be a big change, but I know most of the school has already gone through it, so I don't think it would be too bad."

—senior Sam Rider

"Being in quarantine made me feel so disconnected because my whole world stopped, but everyone else's kept going. I just felt so out of touch."

-senior Camry Young

"Quarantine really made me appreciate being at school and being with my friends. It was really weird to know that everyone else was going to school while I was just stuck at home. It was sometimes nice to just relax, but also stressful because of all the work I had to make up when I came back to school."

—junior Jersey Johnson

"Quarantine was pretty boring. It was kind of hard to pay attention in my classes so I had no idea what I was doing."

—sophomore Bradyn Dreher

#### COVID-19

#### Students required to quarantine multiple times due to contact criteria

By Allison Brooks & Alicia Feyerherm Hays High Guidon

Attending school poses many COVID-related threats, such as spreading the virus, being put into quarantine or actually contracting COVID-19.

While at press time, no cases had originated within the school, 611 students and staff had been quarantined because they were in contact with someone who tested positive.

"Our quarantines are based off Ellis County Health Department's guidelines and the state KDHE [Kansas Department of Health and Environment]," school nurse and district contact tracer Jessica Roe said. "Any student within six feet of a positive student or staff member for 10 minutes or longer has to quarantine."

Therefore, some students in PRIDE Time or GPS may not have to quarantine if the positive case passed somewhere during the hour.

"We not only look at seating charts, but we can also look at PRIDE Time passes to see if they left, because only students with 10 minutes of contact or more have to quarantine," Roe said.

While some students may get lucky that way, there are no preventative measure students can take to avoid quarantine.

"There's no way to avoid quarantines, but what we're doing with wearing masks and handwashing has been helping," Roe said. "No one in quarantine has tested positive at

this time.

However, some students have been quarantined multiple times since the school year has started, causing them to miss a lot of school days.

Senior Adisyn Jacobs has been put into quarantine four different times. The most time she spent at school in between each quarantine, up until the most recent one, was three days.

"It has really taken a toll on my school life," Jacobs said.

Even though, during a quarantine, students join their classes via Zoom every day, Jacobs, along with junior Grace McCord, said it does not provide the same experience as being in the actual classroom.

"Teachers that don't communicate are really what makes working from home hard," McCord said.

McCord has been quarantined twice this school year so far.

"The first time, I was upset, but knew staying home was the right thing to do, but I missed all of Homecoming week, so that was the hard part," McCord said. "The second time I found out [that I had to quarantine], I had only been back from the first quarantine for three days, so I just had gotten caught up. Knowing that I would have to do the same process again was really frustrating."

Because of the school days lost to quarantines and the fact that no quarantined student has tested positive, the USD 489 Board of Education voted in a special meeting on Oct. 19 to change the time that a student must quarantine after being in contact at school with a person who tested positive, reducing it from 14 days to seven days; students in contact outside of school with someone who tested positive will still have to quarantine for 14 days.

"The most challenging part of my job has been having to tell kids they have to quarantine at home," Roe said. "It's better now that it's only seven days rather than 14. It's easier to tell kids they'll only miss one week of school instead of 14 days of school and activities."

The school board justified the change by saying that a shorter quarantine will still protect students and staff while limiting the negative impact of lost school days.

Some students have found a silver lining in their quarantine situations by working on previous projects and enjoying the free time.

"To make time pass, I have been reading a bunch and sewing some quilts," McCord said. "It has been a really nice time to take time to catch up on previous commitments."

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# Figural of the state of isolation. Just Guarantine students and staff have missed school due to quarantine 5554 school days missed because of quarantine due to exposure or waiting on test results 481 total school days missed because of isolation

ALEXIS PFANNENSTIEL / The Guidon

#### What business did you miss when it closed, either temporarily or permanently, because of COVID-19?

"It sucked when the Rose Garden shut down because I work there."

—senior Jacob Bollig

"Starbucks has changed our hours sometimes when workers are affected by COV-ID, and it is very frustrating." —senior Claire Shippy

"Arby's, because I worked there, and I really wanted more hours."

—junior Chandler Beamer

"I was upset that, like, Walmart's hours were different because I go to Walmart all the time. And, I sometimes would just go at midnight, but now, I can't."

—junior Morgan Shorb

"Before places started closing, I do remember going inside of Wendy's for pretty much the last time. I'd say restaurant lobbies closing overall has kind of affected me because, when I go out with my family to get fast food on the weekends, we would also go inside to pick up the food."

—sophomore Seth Gillock

"The movie theaters, because I just wanted to be able to watch movies."

—sophomore Jude Tippy

"Taco Shop because, 'you've never had it so good,' and when they temporarily closed, you would have to go to Taco Grande."

—freshman Gavin Flaska

"I can't go on late night Walmart trips because it closed early."

—freshman Anessa Jen-

# **COVID-19 affects jobs,** businesses in past months

By Cade Becker Hays High Guidon

The world we live in, both locally and globally, is facing economic issues caused by COVID-19, as businesses are closing, and people are losing jobs.

"The restrictions on allowing people to trade and to move from country to country has a huge impact on both microeconomic factors, as well as macroeconomic factors," Hays High business teacher Silas Hibbs said. "A lot of negative effects are being created by COVID-19, as it hinders trade and transaction ability."

One area on which CO-VID-19 has had a tremendous effect is the auto industry. According to www. mckinsey.com, economists speculate that sales of vehicles may drop 20 to 30 percent, and profits for automakers may fall by roughly \$100 billion.

Restaurants are also facing issues with not only staying open, but also staying busy. The same source, www.mckinsev.com, said that the restaurants are creating innovative solutions to increase revenue since people do not order appetizers, sides and desserts as frequently when they are ordering for delivery or pickup. But, as owners know, those items are usually the different between profit and loss.

"A lot of times, if you ask a business owner on a micro level, or even people who are global business

leaders, they will tell you about a lot of negative effects," Hibbs said, "whether it be the cost of compliance, since you notice that it costs a lot to buy wipes and to buy masks or to make sure your employees are doing the proper sanitation protocols, which increases the cost of operations."

According to an article on www.fortune.com, more than 97,966 businesses have permanently closed in the United States. The online magazine also said that roughly 140,104 businesses are temporarily closed until further notice.

This, of course, trickles down to the workforce. According the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, around 18.1 million people were unemployed in June of 2020, and 11.4 million of those people were laid off because their workplace closed or could not afford to keep the employees. They also said that, among those employed in June, 46 percent of workers in personal care and service occupations and 35 percent of workers in food preparation and servicerelated occupations were not able to work during random points in the last four weeks because of employer closures or cutbacks due to the pandemic.

"The business that I was upset about closing was High Plains Roofing because that put me out of a job for a bit until I found one at another place," junior Adam King said.

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# Pandemic causes people to change their actions

By Cade Becker Hays High Guidon

The prolonged days of quarantine in the spring and even the short quarantines of students during this fall has had an influence on the people in many ways, and the effects are still appearing throughout society as a whole.

"People seem to have become more extreme on their values," sophomore Tony Arial said. "They're either more or less accepting when it comes to certain issues and other people."

According to students, people seem to be a lot more afraid of hanging out with others and also seem to have changed in other aspects, too.

"I think it [COVID] has changed everyone's personalities drastically," senior Jamie Curlo said. "Everyone's paranoid of hanging out with people and going out places. It's causing mass paranoia in society."

Like Curlo said, senior Dustin Knoll agreed that COVID has affected friendships and relationships, both outside and inside of school.

"COVID has changed people's perspectives on life," Knoll said. "It's just scary to go out in the world right now. And, it has completely changed what our view is supposed to be. Remember, our motto [for Homecoming] last year was 'Come Together,' and now, it's the complete opposite. So, it has changed

our high school experience drastically."

With this year's motto being "Appreciate," the school is trying to get students to appreciate the people they know and the opportunities they have.

"I feel like people have changed just in the ways that they do not take stuff for granted," junior Jersey Johnson said. "I feel like now they appreciate their friendships more and just like being at school more. I think people have been increasingly kind and appreciative of seeing people in the hallways and being with their friends."

When the quarantine started, students lost a lot of their abilities to interact with others, leading to isolation or loneliness in some cases.

"What I've read, based on the fact that I teach psychology, is that it [CO-VID-19] has increased anxiety and isolation, which later leads to depression for a lot of teenagers out there," teacher Matt Brooks said. "All those rates have gone up significantly; any number is significant in this case. But, it has clearly gone up in certain areas where teenagers are isolated. They may not have great home lives or anything, and it would just add to the anxiety and some of those stressors. Unfortunately, those results have also resulted in more suicides that goes back to the depression and anxiety because of COVID."

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Since COVID-19 started, what are some changes that you have noticed in people's actions or personalities?

"What I've noticed in society is that there has been a lot more paranoia."

-senior TayShaun Birch

"There have been a lot of positive personalities, and there have been a lot of people looking at the negative sides of life. There's just a lot of change from those personalities and a lot of new personalities popping up with everything becoming new."

—senior Taylor Deines

"The differences is, like, I've been noticing a lot of people are a lot more open minded, but some are a lot more closed minded."

—senior Michael Neil

"People have become more harsh towards other people that are not the same as them or have the same opinions as

—senior Sydney Walker

"Everyone is kinda stupid now."

—junior Christian Ayre

"Everyone has been really aggressive during all the political stuff and all that has come out."

—junior Tegan Hartman

"It has affected me in a sense that I can't see my friends as often, public places being opened less; it's definitely been a bit of a struggle." —sophomore Seth Gillock

> "Everyone is weird, but me." —sophomore Cyrus Vajnar

"Popularity has changed people and the way they act and treat their friends."

—freshman Lacey Jacobs

**ACTIVITIES** 

## **CHANGE OF PLANS**

#### Holiday gatherings limited or canceled due to spread of COVID-19

Connected

pack up and

drive pretty much any-

halting normal traditions,

though. Junior Rachel

Windholz said her family

plans on gathering at her

grandmother's home for

their traditional Thanks-

"No plans will be can-

giving meal.

Not all families are

where in the region.'

By Emry Lundy Hays High Guidon

Thanksgiving is a time to spend with others and count one's blessings. Families and friends feast together, giving thanks for all that they have. However, now that gatherings have been discouraged due to COVID-19, people are having to come up with alternative Thanksgiving celebrations.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, "Celebrating virtually or with members of your own household (who are consistently taking measures to reduce the spread of CO-VID-19) poses the lowest risk for spread."

Senior Ashley Vilaysing said she will not have the opportunity this Thanksgiving break to see her cousins, which she said is disappointing since she does not get to spend time with them very often.

"I'm not sure what we are doing this year; it feels like everything is up in the air," Vilaysing said. "We

will have to limit friends family, or even family from far away when taking precautions." Like-

wise, teachers admit to decreasing visits with family and friends as well.

"The plan that my wife and I have made is to avoid visiting family this year," science teacher John Neal said. "Both sets of parents are elderly, and we would rather not risk infecting either of our elderly mothers.'

Letters

However, Neal and his wife have not let the pandemic dampen their spirits. They still plan on making the best of their time together during the Thanksgiving Break.

"We will likely travel," Neal said. "With it being just the two of us, we can celed; everything will go as normal," Windholz

Windholz said she is optimistic that, despite the possible worries, her family will still "have a great time" gathering together and spending time with one another.

Sophomore Devlyn Jochum also plans on spending Thanksgiving with her family, as they normally do.

However, it is not just family gatherings that have been affected.

"Usually, we [my family and I] play music for the people in the nursing home," Jochum said. "If we aren't allowed to do so this year, I know I will certainly miss it. I love brightening up the residents' day.

Even with all of the changes, families, friends and acquaintances are attempting to see on another, whether in person or though some other method, such as FaceTime or Zoom.

Art teacher Grace Splichal and her family will be using technology to their advantage this Thanksgiving.

"We aren't having a big Thanksgiving like we normally would, but we will have a Zoom call for everyone," Splichal said.

Splichal said her family also intends to hopefully have a larger Christmas celebration since they will not get to gather together as normal for Thanksgiv-

While a technological approach will not work for everyone, it is one of the possible ways to keep relationships strong.

The important thing is that families and friends stay connected Thanksgiving. Whether that be through FaceTime, Zoom, phone calls, writing letters or in person, there are many ways to stay in touch with those we are thankful for.

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#### YOUR VIEW

#### Have your plans for Thanksgiving been altered due to COVID?

"No. We usually just order pizza. My dad works, so it's just me and my mom."

—junior Mazzy Sacia

"[My family isn't] really sure what we are doing so far [for Thanksgiving]."
—junior Jada Thomas

"No, honestly. I usually have a big Thanksgiving dinner with my family.

-sophomore Robin Checketts

"In previous years, we would go see family in either Colorado, Tennessee or New York. We were going to go to Tennessee for Thanksgiving, but since we can't travel, we don't know what we are going to do, and we think we're just going to stay in town and have Thanksgiving.'

-sophomore Rylie Fairbank

Yeah, a lot of my family members can't come because they're out of state."

-sophomore Elena Mader

"[My family] usually [goes] to my great aunt's house, but I don't think we are going to be able to go to see them. -freshman Evyn Cox

"[I will] probably just end up having a meal for Thanksgiving [with my family].'

–freshman Erik Pfeifer

#### Pandemic causes student organizations to change yearly plans

easily

By Rylie Fairbank Hays High Guidon

There is a variety of clubs and organizations for students at Hays High, but many have had to halt their plans or to make major changes to their to activities to accommodate the "new normal" caused by COVID-19.

"Due to COVID, the Red Cross Club has not been able to meet yet," sponsor Jayme Goetz said. "First of all, we have a large number of students that want to be a part of the club, and I don't feel confident that we can spread out enough in the Lecture Hall. Second, we had to make the tough call to cancel the blood drive this fall due to our late start and new restrictions put into place in both our building and through Red Cross. We hope to host our spring blood drive in March still."

Red Cross Club is not e only club that has had to postpone meetings.

"We are postponing the Guitar Club for now,

sponsor Matthew Whitney said. "COVID numbers are too high, and being that we sing and play in close proximity, it just is not a good idea to meet right now. Let's hope for a vaccine soon so that we can get back together as a

Instead of totally postponing club activities. some organizations have chosen to be online or to be hybrid with online and onsite components.

"Science Olympiad this year will depend on the region and the regulations for that region," cosponsor Beth Schiel said. "If in-person gatherings are allowed at the time of the tournament, that will be utilized. If not, then all completion will take place virtually."

Similarly, Chess Club is competing using an online website to play opponents in the Kansas Scholastic Chess Association for now.

something we were familiar with at all," Chess Club sponsor Erin Holder

said. "However, at the beginning of the year, I made sure everyone had an account on chess.com because we had a meeting of all the coaches in Kansas to talk about what this year is going to look like, and I knew that going in.'

While some clubs have had to move to online events, others have just had to rework their plans.

"We have made many changes due to COV-ID-19," Student Council sponsor Alicia Brungardt said. "We could not hold spring elections for freshmen because of our stay-at-home order. We ended up not being able to hold those elections until nearly Homecoming. All Homecoming events had to be evaluated for safety, reworked and rescheduled."

Brungardt continued, saying that until COVID subsides, StuCo will continue to adapt its plans because of it.

"Many of we normally do cannot take place this year, so we spend time as an executive



MATTHEW BOLLIG / Indian Webteam

#### On Nov. 7, senior Jonathon Garner and sophomore Quinton McGuire play opponents from Canton-Galva in an online Chess Club tournament.

team rethinking the direction for StuCo," Brungardt said. "We then meet with the officers and the StuCo members to build on those ideas. This year, it is also very important that our plan in pairs in case one of them gets quarantined. We have five executive of-

ficers, and three of them have been quarantined so far. We have used Zoom to keep all executive officers involved in class activities and meeting plans. However, the officers are great students who man find ways to work through their challenges."

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#### Have any of your clubs made changes because of COVID?

"The only one that kind of changed was Spirit Club."

-senior Maia Lummus

"Not any clubs that I have been in have changed this

-senior Devin Tailaferro

"As of right now, Guitar Club is canceled.'

-sophomore Keiarra Gon-

"It took longer for it [Gender Sexuality Alliance] to get started up again. Most clubs started at the beginning of the year, but GSA took a little longer to start."

-sophomore Jessica Leiker

"They have been rearranged, or how we do them is different from last year."

-sophomore Kaley Ra-

"I was in Guitar Club, and it's been canceled for the whole year for now."

—sophomore Seth Tripp

"I haven't really had any changes to my clubs.'

-freshman Abbigail Boyer

#### What community service have you

recently done? "I used to go to nursing homes and play games with

the residents, but since COVID started, I haven't been able to.' -senior Johnessa Gay

"Chartwell, a company at Fort Hays, has banquets sometimes, and I'll help with that, serving and cleaning up.' -junior Alex Johnson

"I phone banked for a local political candidate.'

–junior Mazzy Sacia

"The community service I did was coaching flag football for the HRC.

-junior Reagan Smith

## Cross country team, DECA participate in annual Turkey Trot races

By Nikka Vuong Hays High Guidon

Hays Recreation Center and Papa Murphy's Pizza held the annual 5k, 10k and kids division Turkey Trot races on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Both Hays High cross country and DECA participated in and helped with the race.

About 12 cross country runners ran in the 5k race, and approximately 13 DECA members volunteered at various stations along the race.

"Part of the draw for DECA to participate in

the Turkey Trot is the HRC donates some of the proceeds to not only Hays High DECA, but also Hays High cross country," DECA sponsor Shaina Prough said. "It is just a small donation to help us pay for operating expenses that we may have throughout the year. In return, we help provide workers for the race. It also is a great opportunity for students to become involved, to get some community service hours and to just be able to get out be on the walls of Hays High School and experience what goes on in potentially organizing a race, as well as participating in a race.'

Cross country runners who participated in the Turkey Trot included freshman Leo Hernandez and sophomore Ashlynn Hammerschmidt.

"I participated in the [Turkey Trot] to just have some fun," Hernandez said. "I love running, so I will always take the opportunity to race. Plus, a bunch of the team was going to be there, so I was excited to have another race with them."

Both Hernandez and Hammerschmidt they would definitely participate in the race again. My favorite part about

the Turkey Trot was getting to be there with a few of my teammates because we have not ran together in a while," Hammerschmidt said.

All cross country runners were able to participate for free but were not

eligible to win any awards. Prough said she also noticed an increase in participants this year.

"I talked to a couple of runners after the races, and they agreed as well," Prough said. "They were really happily surprised at the number of

runners that were there. They felt that people were just looking for outlets of things to do, to get out of the house, to stay healthy, so I thought it was great that there was that many people involved. Prough said she also

always enjoys seeing the repeat runners and seeing her students work together.

"It is just a fun way for our [students] to get to hang out and be together, especially with CO-VID," Prough said. "The short amount of time is also for a good cause."

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#### YOUR VIEW

# What are some of your favorite types of photography to take or view?

"I like to see weird and extreme angles, especially on cars, like on a bumper or a really cool wheel or something like that."

—senior Dustin Knoll

"When we had [former teacher Bill] Gasper for Photo Imaging my freshman year, I really liked changing things to grayscale and making the photos pop, like when we took pictures of our apples. It was really fun to do."

-senior Madison Stanton

"I don't really stick to one type because I like to see what each photographer wants to show me. Also, #foodporn."

—senior Ashley Vilaysing

"I love cat photos. If it's an animal, then, yes."

-senior Alexis White

"My favorite would probably be portrait photography. I like seeing a lot of different perspectives; seeing the way people think is really cool."

—junior Shirley Lee

"I prefer to see waterfowl, like ducks and geese. They're beautiful animals. I like to hunt them."

—sophomore Ethan Carrillo

"I definitely like sunsets. Kansas sunsets beat any other sunsets."

—sophomore Gilda Torres-Allen

"I like the way sunsets look. They're really pretty compared to places where I used to live."

—freshman Ayana Gibbs

## What is your experience with paying it forward?

"I was at Dillon's to buy a flower for my sister's dance, and my card kept declining, so the person behind me paid for it." —junior Aiden DeBey

"I was shopping, and this lady offered to buy me a shirt, then I paid that forward by helping a little kid buy a toy." —junior Stanna Flinn

"I used to work at a grocery store, and people would come in, and if they were short [of money], I'd just pay for them." —junior Jamie Haddaway

"I paid it forward at my church because I did a food pantry thing."

—sophomore Maggi Lindenmeyer

"I have a friend who doesn't like anything but beef sticks, so if I go to Cerv's and I'm headed to her house, I pick up beef sticks."

—sophomore Madison Nottingham **ARTS** 

## **FIVE STATE PHOTOGRAPHY**

#### Associated Press photographer, Hays High alumnus judges annual competition

By Caitlin Leiker Hays High Guidon

The Hays Arts Council's 37th Annual Five State Photography Competition and Exhibition – presenting 100 prints from Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma and Colorado – were accepted on Nov. 10 for virtual judging by current Associated Press photographer and 1979 Hays High alumnus Charlie Riedel.

Riedel has worked for the AP since 2000, receiving many national and international assignments and awards for his images from the Winter and Summer Olympics, the Gulf Coast oil spill, Hurricane Katrina, the 9/11 attacks, the Kentucky Derby and the Super Bowl.

Riedel got his start on the staffs of *The Guidon* and *Indian Call*, continued his work through college at Fort Hays State University and spent a short time employed at the *Salina Journal* before moving back to his hometown to work for 17 years



LEON STAAB / "Black Lace

at the *Hays Daily News*.

Riedel himself used to enter the HAC's Five State Photography Competition while he worked at the *Hays Daily News*, later going on to judge the annual competition.

Riedel said he looked forward to reviewing what the Five State candidates had to offer this year.

"I've always been impressed with the wide variety of talented photographers entering the contest, and I enjoy seeing through the eyes of others," Riedel said.

As a photojournalist, Riedel said his main goal is to document the world around him, ranging from breaking news events, such as natural disasters, riots or sporting events, to simply aesthetically pleasing photos.

ing photos.

"The key difference between photojournalism and other types of photography is a photojournalist's mandate states that the photos we produce are accurate and fair and not altered in any way that affects the content of the



ANDREA MORELAND / "The Bath"



VANNESHIA CRANE / "Chernobyl Book"



STAN SHOOK / "Big Bo



photo," Riedel said. "There are many photos I've taken that could have been made better if altered in Photoshop, but that is a strict no-no, and I would never ever consider doing that."

However, in judging the Five State, creative guidelines are more fluid when accounting for the variety of styles among the unique photographers.

This year, framing and size were made uniform for every photo, which, according to Riedel, "leveled the playing field," placing all the emphasis on "the artistic merits of the image."

According to the HAC's information about the event, "an opening recep-

tion has been scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hays Arts Center Gallery. The exhibition dates are Dec. 4, 2020, through Feb. 12, 2021."

The HAC also plans on creating an album for this year's accepted photographs on its website and Facebook page for easy online viewing.

To many photographers, the difference between "taking a photo" and "making a photo" is rooted in creative purpose and composition. Riedel said that going out and making photos of whatever you enjoy shooting is the best way to get involved with photography in your community, whether you are a

seasoned artist or a newcomer to the craft.

He said the most important part is establishing your individuality and showcasing it in both your process and your product.

"Creatively, try to set yourself apart from the pack," Riedel said. "I've always gone into photography with the mindset that I'm going to take the best photo of whatever I am shooting that anyone has ever seen – this rarely happens of course - but it's a goal. Simply put, recognize what a good photo is and work to make that happen, push yourself hard, develop a style and never be satisfied with

21 cleiker@usd489.com

## Sophomore spreads joy through 'Pay it Forward' movement

By Alexandra Coveney
Havs High Guidon

"Paying it forward" can be as small as paying for food for the person behind you in a drive-up line, or as big as funding water wells in other countries.

Sophomore Rylie Fairbank set out to spread this type of love in her own community with an organization that she started.

"Bobby Blessings is a pay it forward movement I started in honor of my late uncle, Clinton (Bobby) Minimum," Fairbank said. "Bobby Blessings are simply that – a blessing. They are a good deed, a random act of kindness or simply helping someone out."

The movement was started on July 8, 2018, four days after Minimum's death.

"Despite Bobby's many health concerns, he always saw the best in people, and he always put other people first," Fairbank said. "Bobby loved making cakes and treats just to give them away. He would give everything away if he could."

Her family's "Blessing Baskets," are a Bobby Blessings staple, in which Fairbank and her family have donated items to businesses or people in need around Hays.

The family distributed survival kits to auto repair businesses for those who got stuck in bad weather, containing activities and toys for children, hot cocoa and marshmallows, popcorn, information about Hays and more.

During the winter months, they donated "Snowman Kits" to mail carriers with hot cocoa, popcorn, hand warmers and a thank you note. Gloves and blankets were



COURTESY PHOTO

Sophomore Rylie Fairbank stocks a "Blessing Box" with canned goods outside a local church as part of her pay it forward movement in honor of her late uncle, Clinton (Bobby) Minimum.

also donated to those who were underdressed at the Hays Frost Fest Parade, and blankets full of treats were provided to businesses to brighten people's days. Laundry supplies have been donated to laundry mats for those in need, and Fairbank donated Moon Pies to the Hays Public Library for its NASA presentation.

In appreciation of an

In appreciation of an area hospital for its hard work during the pandemic, Fairbank made more than 50 baskets filled with snacks with the donations of community members.

"Bobby Blessings has been able to bless many people," Fairbank said. "With generous donations from the community, we were able to deliver Girl Scout cookies to first responders around Hays."

For these efforts, Bobby Blessings won the Pay it Forward Challenge in December 2018, sponsored by Popt Popcorn. Fairbank's movement also meets the requirements of the Girl Scout GOLD Award and Eagle Scout Award that she plans to complete. "With an additional do-

nation from Poppin Joe's Popcorn and help from my Girl Scout troop, we made hundreds of popcorn snack bags given away around town in February 2019," Fairbank said.

With the holidays approaching, now is perfect time to bless others.

"A few blessings you could do are rake leaves and shovel snow, make an extra meal for an elderly neighbor, donate unused coats and gloves to those in need, make pies or cookies for others, volunteer at a food pantry or donate to Operation Christmas Child," Fairbank said. "There is always an opportunity or way for you to pay it forward."

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## Daniel T Gilbert DDS, PA

New Patients Welcome

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## **BIOENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP**

#### Senior team creates ventilator for University of Kansas contest

By Nikka Vuong

Seniors Madison Holloway, Ginny Ke and Skylar Zimmerman participated in the 2020 University Kansas Bioengineering Scholarship challenge.

Holloway, Ke and Zimmerman spent approximately 40 hours developing a reusable and cost-effective ventilator for less than \$50.

"We used a pulley system and connected dowel rods to the wheel to push onto a block that would push into an armanual breathing unit bag and 'breathe' for a patient who needs it," Holloway said.

Ke said the autonomous ventilator had to compress into the Ambu bag, which was the selfinflating breathing bag the team used. The project required the ventilator to cycle through a certain number of "breaths" in a minute.

"The most challenging part of the project was finding solutions to every little aspect," Ke said. "As soon as we thought it was running smoothly, some little part would not work. We started the project about a week or so before the deadline, and we put every minute of our free time into designing.

creating and building the ventilator.'

Holloway said they faced many challenges, like maintaining the budget and adhering to the time frame while making sure everthing functioned.

"If we would have had a few more days, there is no doubt that it could have been the best version," Holloway said.

Once they completed the ventilator, Holloway, Ke and Zimmerman shipped their creation to KU and presented their project via Zoom on Oct. 28 while their prototype underwent testing.

Results and critiques were given afterward, and only the first through third place winners were announced.

"It was a fun project to be a part of, and it felt like I was doing something that was for the greater good," Holloway said. "The brainstorming process was easily my favorite part. We sat down many times and tried to put ideas on the table and [find] which design would be [best]. I've learned so much from Ginny and Skylar. I was thrilled to be a part of the team. It was a real learning experience, and I have plenty to take away from this wonderful time."

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Seniors Ginny Ke, Skylar Zimmerman and Madison Holloway stand with their prototype ventilator, crafted for the University of Kansas Bioengineering Scholarship challenge. Over the course of one week, the team put nearly 40 hours into their design while maintaining a \$50 budget. Their project was shipped to KU to be tested while the group presented via Zoom.

#### YOUR VIEW

#### If you could develop any new invention, what would it be?

"I would want to invent a

senior Kai Shaffer

"If I could make any invention, I would make scented masks so that people don't have to smell their breath. -senior Cooper Young

"I would invent a machine that would automatically make nothing but lasagna." —junior Matthew Bollig

"Flying cars."

—junior Marissa Hoffman

"If I could make any invention, it would be an invention that comes up with ideas for you.

—junior Shirley Lee

"I would want to make a homework machine that does all your work for you, so you can catch up on sleep while it

–junior Taleia McCrae

"I would really want to invent a sock warmer because my feet get so cold, but I don't want to put on shoes.

-junior Grace McCord

"I would make an invention that would make stupid people not be stupid.

-junior Colton Pfannen-

"A mute button so you can make anyone you want to stop talking?

—junior Jackson Reed

"I would make a teleporting car so you can get places

—junior Sage Zweifel

## KMEA band, choir, orchestra events go online

By Alexandra Coveney

The Northwest Kansas Music Educators Association is one of seven KMEA districts in Kansas, and Hays High's band, choir and orchestra students will be auditioning for spots in the NWKMEA events.

COVID-19, Due to there will not be any live KMEA district or state festival – just virtual.

"Due to the pandemic, and the particular concerns about spreading the virus through playing wind instruments and singing, all of these inperson events are now virtual," choir instructor Alex Underwood said. "Normally, the district event involves students from the entire northwest quarter of the state travelling to FHSU on a Saturday in December to rehearse and perform a concert."

dent is selected for the district event, if he or she scores high enough, the student will move on to the KMEA All-State Choir. Similarly, once a band or an orchestra student is chosen for the district group, the student may perform a second audition for KMEA state.

"Normally, state is held in Wichita, where the top students from across the state in band, orchestra, jazz band and choir all rehearse and perform concerts spanning three days," Underwood said.

Last year, the Hays High choir had 45 students audition for district choir, with 10 of these students making it to the state choir.

"Because of the virtual format, many students were not interested in auditioning this year," Underwood said. "We have only 17 students auditioning, ranging from freshnine returning All-State students from last year, only three are even auditioning this year. It's one of the many ways the pandemic has deeply affected our school."

For choir, students who did pursue an audition signed up for 20-minute time slots after school, recorded their performances and uploaded those recordings to the KMEA audition website before the Oct. 6 deadline.

"Once the auditions are judged, we'll know which students are selected for district choir and which are selected for state choir," Underwood said.

For jazz band, three students auditioned, and for concert band, one additional student auditioned.

"Noah Bruggeman, Christian Burkholder, Dustin Rajewski and Ashley Vilaysing all made the district roster for KMEA after auditioning," band instructor Matthew Rome

The music instructors took time during class, PRIDE Time and after school to prepare students for their auditions.

"The audition music is very difficult, and if a student does not have a private teacher to help them, I help them learn it during PRIDE Time or after school," orchestra director Joan Crull said.

For orchestra, nine students auditioned for the KMEA group. Since the Northwest District only has two orchestras, the Northwest District orchestras combine with the orchestras from the Southwest District.

"I used to practice at least an hour and a half, five days a week before school started, but now I practice when I have the time, and it is honestly a very big commitment,' junior Sydney Wittkorn said. "You have to give up time where you would

rather hang out with your friends to practice."

Wittkorn auditioned for both KMEA choir and orchestra.

"KMEA itself is a lot more relieving since you aren't worried about making it anymore, and it is always so much fun since you get to make great music with good people who care about music," Wittkorn said. "KMEA can be tasking since there are day-long rehearsals getting ready for the concert, but it is motivating and rewarding.'

NWKMEA is an event to challenge students to keep their musical abilities sharp. Despite the new format of the event, that theme still rings true.

"I'm very proud of the work these students put in to learn this music," Crull said. "It challenges them and makes them all better players for working on it!"

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#### What is the hardest part of auditioning for KMEA?

"A lot of time goes into rehearsing at the conferences, but, to be totally honest, when I went to All-State Choir last year, I didn't learn the music until the bus ride there.

-senior Alisara Arial

"The amount of practice that goes into a piece usually isn't much. It's the auditions that are the killer here."

-senior Camille Moore

"I become anxious during the recording process. It may take two or three tries to get the perfect recording."

-sophomore Riley Kershner

"You keep practicing your piece until it feels like it has meaning to it, so you're singing with passion. If you don't work hard enough, the final result won't be the desired one."

sophomore Seth Tripp

"Waiting to see if I made it." –freshman Evyn Cox

"Learning new music in just a few months, and there's about 40 hours of practice."

–freshman Brendan Stults





# 

## Multiple resources available to help with mental health

By Brenna Schwien

dents and even staff mem- the more it can be utilized exist. bers to discuss, but that and help people get the help does not make it any less they need. important of a topic.

been diagnosed with anxi- off their shoulders. ety, and 3.2 percent of chil-

ing need for mental health successful they may be."

At Hays High, one of ther in school or off site.

Resources are also avail-

health services more availtime here, and it's easy and 22bschwien@usd489.com

able by adding a Behavioral convenient for students."

Health School Liaison at While there are a few

According to the Centers available resources can pos- do feel that the school could for Disease Control's Data sibly help students man- do more to promote resourcand Statistics on Children's age their assignments and es in and out of school that Mental Health, 7.1 percent classes better, which can can be beneficial for stuof children ages 3 to 17 have often take some of the stress "If a student has a men-

dren ages 3 to 17 have been tal health concern, coursediagnosed with depression. work and classwork may like anxiety or depression, "There is an ever-grow- seem overwhelming," Miller to worry more or to feel like said. "Classes and homeservices," counselor Amy work provide some nor-Miller said. "The sooner peomalcy for students. This be- of homework onto students ple learn to manage their came apparent when school can be very negative to mental health, the more went to remote learning this student's mental health be-

students is the Behavior- the services and resources Morley said. al Health School Liaison, that are available for the

dents on the USD 489 web health resources that direct- to a trusted adult. steps to make the mental because we spend a ton of they need," Morley said.

both Hays Middle and Hays resources available to stu-Mental health can be a High," Miller said. "As more dents, they are rarely dischallenging and sometimes students and families are cussed, which leaves most uncomfortable topic for stu- made aware of the program, students unaware that they

> "I don't know many ways to help resources be more Knowing about these available to students, but I dents who are struggling,' Morley said.

School can cause students with mental illnesses, they are failing.

"Pushing large amounts cause it puts a lot of stress The counselors and staff on the student to get it done the resources available to at Hays High know about quickly and accurately,"

Teachers expect quite a which connects students students, but most of the bit out of their students, and with therapeutic services ei- students are not aware of sometimes balancing eight classes can be a challenge, "I honestly don't know Morley said, but when a stuable to parents and to stu- that we have any mental dent needs help, they can go

site, and there is a therapist ly tie to our school," senior "People can reach out by and multiple case manag- Emmy Morley said. "I defi- talking to trusted teachers ers on site for students who unitely think that we should or administrators, and these qualify for those services. prioritize mental health people can then reach out to "USD 489 has taken more throughout our school, get the student the help that

Students must learn how to overcome setbacks

By Allison Brooks

Students have a lot to and they can often forget to prioritize their mental "Being involved also teachhealth amid everything else es me essential life skills." they have to do.

to achieve a lot, whether it active member of the girls be to set themselves up for basketball team. Somesuccess in the future or to times, though, she said the feel accomplished, and that amount of commitments the support of teachers and can sometimes lead to over- she has can overwhelm her. extending themselves.

has stayed involved through and I find myself struggling being the co-vice president to keep up," Ke said. of the junior class, being the vice president of Book Club, Nicki Lind said she believes staying active in the Senior getting a good amount of Pen Pals Program and being involved in Girl Scouts.

"Outside of school, I hold a few different positions on a few boards," McCord said. "Most other activities I am utes a day can go a long in, I do not hold a leadership way," Lind said. "We need position; you can only be in to have all those things in so many places at once."

active because she believes pens in life. When life you put yourself in posiin giving back to others.

want to return the favor." volved student comes the and each time, it provides she stays involved because is not being able to balance ence for the next opportushe believes it will set her one's commitments, getting nity that comes my way."

"Personally, being in-volved in school and the Lind said she bel interests as me," Ke said.

Ke is the Student Coun-They may feel the need cil vice president and is an

"Occasionally, the work Junior Grace McCord and stress catch up to me,

School psychologist sleep and exercise are both important aspects in maintaining one's mental health.

lot of exercise; just 30 minplace so that we can deal McCord said she stays so with everything that hap-work twice as hard. When throws curveballs at us, we tions to succeed, you also "Being involved is all want to have the ability and open yourself to failure; about giving back," McCord the endurance to make it they go hand in hand. I can

up for success in the future. a bad grade or not perform-

Lind said she believes community allows me to high school is a good time develop relationships with to make mistakes and have balance in their daily lives, people who share the same failures, though, because it is easier for students to bounce back from them.

"You have to embrace failure and learn from it," Lind said. "Everybody is going to fail at some point, and while you are in high school and you still have family, it's a pretty decent time to deal with failure."

Ke's philosophy is to keep moving forward and striving to do better.

"I generally tell myself that I can't do anything now except to do better next time," Ke said. "I do feel a drop in my stomach, and I do get down on myself, but I "It does not have to be a always bounce back."

McCord said she looks at failure as a positive thing.

"Failure motivates me," McCord said. "I don't like to lose, so when I do fail, I said. "This community has through those situations." say I've been rejected more given me so much, and I With being such an in-than I've been accepted Senior Ginny Ke said risk of failure, whether it me with valuable experi-

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When life throws curveballs at us, we want to have the ability and the endurance to make it through those situations.

psychologist Nicki Lind

I do feel that the school could do more to promote resources in and out of school that can be beneficial for students. senior Emmy Morley

# **J**PINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

## Schools overlook student mental health issues

We dedicate years of our lives to school, and for good reason. Without schooling, society would be destroyed. Living in a country where education and knowledge is easily accessible and not determined by one's socioeconomic status is wonderful.

Schools not only provides us with knowledge, but also they look out for the physical well-being of students. Free meals, the Hays High Food Pantry and the Holiday Help Project are all resources available for students in need to meet their nutritional needs, while physical education classes and athletic opportunities are available for students to maintain their physical activity.

However, schools drastically overlook the mental health needs of students.

Instead, society forces a uniform idea of "success" onto students.

"successful" Being means getting good grades and having a high GPA. Being "successful" means maintaining good attendance and behaving well in class. Being "successful" means completing every assignment, participating in extracurricular activi-

ties or athletics and gaining leadership positions or service hours in clubs and organizations, both in school and out of school.

High-achieving dents are praised for accomplishing these feats. They seem to have it all, but at what cost? Did they stay up until 2 in the morning to finish that essay? Did they miss out on time with family to participate in a dozen extracurriculars? Is it worth it?

Maybe not, but for some students, they may not view it as a choice. They push down their own wants and needs - including their own mental wellness - to chase a vision of "success" that has been engrained in them since birth.

Schools, following state and national mandates, want us to be "College and Career Ready." We spend hours perusing Xello, investigating careers, taking interest inventories and determining learning styles. We pay attention through meetings about choosing the right college, applying for financial aid and keeping our social media presence squeaky clean for future schools and employers.



MEG TAGGART / The Guidon

So much time is spent on the fine details that we do not always take the necessary time to teach students how to deal with anxiety, depression, failure and stress. Are students truly ready for college if they are starting out completely overwhelmed and mentally ill?

Society claims that mental health is as important as physical health and that we should break the stigma around mental health struggles, but there are no actions to support those claims.

Weeks were spent compiling the re-opening plans for schools for this year. We wear masks, sanitize, social distance, quarantine – all for the physical well-being of students.

If school districts pursued mental health issues with the same amount of determination as they put toward COVID-19 protocols, school environments would be unrecognizable.

Mental health is harder

to tackle than a pandemic, though. Individuals are very unique and have different struggles. A onesize-fits-all approach to mental health help would be foolish and ineffective.

While there may not be a simple solution to the problem, that does not mean we should turn a blind eye to the issue of mental health of students entirely, because at the end of the day, the most harmful thing we can do is nothing.

#### **PRAISES & PROTESTS**

#### **PRAISES**

- ·Alicia Feyerherm
- · Helping Hands cookies
- · Early release days
- · Nice teachers
- •1000 Splendid Suns
- Good coworkers
- · Reusable Starbucks cups
- Recycling
- · Cute face masks
- ·Snacks
- ·Vanilla almond butter
- First female vice president elect

#### **PROTESTS**

- · Daylight savings
- Anti-maskers
- · Bootcut jeans · Computers that don't
- work · Passive aggressive
- people
- · Unsweetened almond butter
- Political flags
- Math tests

#### **STAFF OPINIONS**

"I think that that Starbucks reusable cups are thoroughly underrated. I have no idea why someone would purchase a Yeti, Hydroflask or any other beverage container when Starbucks cups are superior. With many designs, decals and sizes, it is always possible to find the perfect cup for your bevarage needs and your aesthetic. Please go buy one. Your life will be changed. This is not sponsored.

-Design Editor Alexis Pfannenstiel

"Ratatouille' is a severely overlooked work of art. It is some of Pixar's best work. It has all the elements to make a perfect film; it's in France, it's about a cute little rat that can cook; one of the main charachters is an awkward little ginger; his love interest is a cool girl that rides a moped; and all of the food looks delicious. With all of that, you'd think it would be everyone's favorite movie, but no, people don't appreciate

it the way they should." -Multimedia/Photo Editor Allison Brooks

"I think that Taylor Swift and her albums are underrated. All of her songs are lyrically complex, and she tells a story in every one of her songs. My favorite albums are probably either 'Red' or '1989' because the vibes are immaculate. In her newest album. 'Folklore,' she explored a new genre and absolutely killed it."

-Sports Editor Brenna Schwien

## Agree: 13

Opinion of *The Guidon* staff

## Disagree: 0

## People should not let political polarization end coexistence

On the cusp of a change in political power, this year's Election Day came and went, but it remains a topic of national news.

According to Research Center, voter participation was at its highest rate in 120 years, and if you were to walk up to anyone on the street, they would probably tell you that history has truly been made - especially with decision factors including the handling of COVID-19, the state of the economy and the matters of racial inequality and climate change.

In the "United" States, political polarization has skyrocketed throughout the past 25 years.

In a 2014 Pew Research study, 10,000 adults nationwide were surveyed on 10 ideological value questions, which created a "median Democrat" and Republican." "median Out of this, 92 percent of Republican responses



By Caitlin Leiker 21cleiker@usd489.com

were to the right of the median Democrat, and 94 percent of Democrat responses were to the left of the median Republican, resulting in almost no overlap in ideology - a chasm that cuts through not only friendships and family bonds, but entire communities.

What's more is that, when the participants were asked to describe the opposing party, most said the other side's policies "are so misguided that they threaten the nation's well-being."

It should not take a team of statisticians to realize this frame of mind on both sides is a serious problem.

Your political affiliation only part of your different identity, no than your religion, your ethnicity, your gender, your intellect, your mental health or your physical Ultimately, abilities. how you treat others especially those different from you - is what ties all of these things together.

Discussing issues and finding a way to settle what is wrong should be our primary objective.

The debates in my Government class, while occasionally heated, still give me hope. We usually uphold mature conversations, and, out of a room of people from all types of backgrounds, we come to some form of an agreement

Not that America's problems are solved in a 12th grade classroom - but isn't that where it starts?

Falling into political gridlock will prove fatal to society. It is up to the present and future generations to prevent this by finding ways to overcome our differences long enough to have productive conversations.

Ideologies are not the only things passed down to our children - methods of communication are passed down, as well.

Now, before you go on a rant about the intricacies of political correctness, let me tell you this: if you ever want someone to truly listen to you - especially someone in power delivery is everything.

Rapport must be established. Simply slapping down your "corrupt"/"racist"/ "homophobic"/"voter fraud" card is not enough to get the job done.

Not to say there isn't corruption and hate in our government. Of course there is. What we need to focus on is how we are going to sovle that.

Throughout lives, our values shift as we are socialized. Students often contort into shapes resembling the principles of their parents or their peer groups without stopping to think for themselves. If everyone were to

conform to the same beliefs, civilization's learning curve would plateau. Choosing to absorb information from your side alone only stunts intellectual and more importantly, empathetical – growth.

Taking the time to understand why we think the way we do, and, most importantly, how to move on from who we once were - this is what enables people to solve problems and to lead more mindful and respectful lives.

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The Guidon welcomes letters to the editor, as long as they are not libelous or obscene. Letters must be signed and must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Other policy information is available upon request by contacting jaugustine@usd489.com.

#### General Information/Policy

The Guidon is published eight times a year by the Digital Media Design and Production class at Hays High School. The 2019 Guidon Online was voted a Pacemaker Finalist by the National Scholastic Press Association.

It is produced as an educational tool to give students the opportunities to inform, investigate, entertain, interpret and evaluate in an open forum and to provide accurate, fair, objective and truthful coverage. The opinions expressed here are those of The Guidon staff and do not express the opinions of the USD 489 Board of Education, administration, faculty or staff.

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-First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

**FALL SPORTS** 

## SUCCESSFUL SEASON

## Girls golf team returns to state, places fourth overall

With a second-place finish at regionals, the girls golf team secured a spot at state for the 15th year in a row.

The varsity team was made up of seniors Sophie Garrison and Sierra Smith, junior Taleia McCrae, sophomore Katie Dinkel and freshman Abbie Norris and was led by head coach Mark Watts and assistant coaches Doug Lowen and Kylie McCarthy.

The state meet took place at the Salina Municipal Golf Course from Oct. 19-20. McCrae shot an 81 her first day and an 85 for her second day, which put her in 18th place with a 166. Dinkel had an 86 on her first day and a 93 on her second day, which gave her 19th place with a 169, right behind McCrae. Garrison placed 24th with a total of 174 from an 86 on her first day and an 88 on her second day. Smith shot a sum of 195 for 44th, with a 104 on her first day and a 91 on her second day. Norris shot a 101 her first day and a 104 on her second day, for a total of 208, which placed her in 56th.

"Our team played their hearts out, but we all know that we could have improved," Garrison said. "I am still proud of how everyone did.'

Hays High was in fifth place with a total score o-f 354. On the second day, the girls had moved into fourth place and were credited with the most improvement between the two days out of any team. With a score on the second day of 347, they had improved by seven strokes

We had the third best score 347 on Day 2, which enabled us to move by Andover," Watts said. "Sierra improved 13 shots from her first round. That was the difference in the rounds that put us past Andover."

McCrae and Dinkel were in the Top 20 at state, where they were medaled and earned All-State Top 20 honors.

"It felt great to place in the Top 20," Dinkel said, "but I can't wait for next year to try and do even better.'

Watts has been a golf coach at Hays High for 30 years, and the last 15 of those years, the girls golf team has been a participant in the state tournament, placing third three times and second one time and winning the 4A State Tournament in 2014.

'It's always one of our goals to make it to the state championships," Watts said. "And, for all the girls who have been able to get their teams to state, this a testament to all their hard work and dedication.'

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#### YOUR VIEW

#### Have you ever played golf, and are you very good?

"I actually have played golf. I'm not amazing at it, but I've definitely improved."

—senior Skylar Zimmer-

"I have played golf, and on a scale of 1-10 I'd give myself

-iunior Marissa Hoffman

"I've played golf since I was around 7 or 9, and I'd say I'm okay.

—junior Taleia McCrae

"I've tried one time, and I failed miserably.

-sophomore Mackenzie

"Yes, I've played golf, I'm actually a pro.'

–freshman Jacob Wente

## Freshman volleyball has near-perfect 26-1 season

By Brenna Schwien

This fall, the freshman volleyball team went 26-1 on the season, for nearly a perfect season.

Having a season with only one loss is rare for any team at Hays High, but the girls proved that it is not impossible.

"Finishing the season with one loss felt really good since, [in] past seasons, we have never done this good," freshman Lacy Droegemeier said.

The team's only loss was to Garden City early in the season, and they were able to defeat them twice later in the season.

'The most memorable moment of the season for me was when we beat Garden City after we had lost to them 22-24 in the third set of a previous match," freshman Haley Rees said.

In volleyball, players

compete in many matches, which makes it more difficult for a team to win over the course of a season.

"I think that our team fell into a rhythm the longer the season went on because we got comfortable playing with each other and talked during the games a lot more," Rees said. "I think that there were moments when we worked well together. The moment that stood out to me the most was during the Garden City game because it was a close game, and everyone did what they needed to do."

Rees said she is proud of the freshmen's record as a team, but she is even prouder of her teammates.

"I'm prouder of my team than our record because we wouldn't have had the record that we did if we wouldn't have learned to work together and trust each other," Rees said.



**COURTESY PHOTO** 

The freshman volleyball team gathers together after one of its last home matches, on the way to a 26-1 season record.

Droegemeier agreed with Rees that team chemistry improved throughout the season.

"We all really got along and played together really well," Droegemeier said. "But, I do think we played better as a team the longer the season went on. I feel like our team worked really well together. I could see it when we would get loud when playing and talking to each other and making sure we understood."

Kaylee Freshman Hammerschmidt also said she believes that finding a rhythm early in the season benefitted both the girls and their team chemistry.

"I feel like after the first couple practices, our team already has a rhythm,' Hammerschmidt

"I think just us playing together for so long has helped incredibly.

While playing, sometimes, the most memorable moments are just being with your teammates

"The best moments were just bonding," Hammerschmidt said. would always do things to get to know each other better. Another best moment was non-volleyball related, but we all got invited to our coach's wedding reception.'

Having fun both on and off the court helped the team, the players said.

"I'm very proud of our team," Hammerschmidt said. "I think from middle school to now freshman year, this has been the best team. We work together, and we just have fun, and the coach was amazing. She felt like one of us."

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#### What has been the most successful team that you have played on?

"The most successful season would be my freshman year of basketball because our whole team had very good chemistry, and every single player was very talented.'

–junior Jersey Johnson

"I think my most successful season was my freshman year of basketball. I had the most fun and enjoyed myself." –junior Aleyia Ruder

"Fall softball in 2019, I would say, because we had a really good group of girls, and we had fun, so we just did better. We didn't worry about anything, and we just had a good time. We all got along great and made the best memories out of it.'

–junior Sage Zweifel

"I think that the most successful team that I have been on was the Hays High girls cross country team.'

-sophomore Amelia Jae-

## Indian football performs well, earns league title

By Cayden Sanders

At the start of the fall season, the football team was already gaining respect from around the state, as spectators talked about the Indians' strengths. Many speculated that the team would have been a front runner in 4A, but with the Indians being in the West Division of 5A, it was going to be a gauntlet to get far in the postseason.

In the regular season, the Indians competed against a Dodge City team who went into the playoffs undefeated as runner-up in 6A. They also faced a Maize South team who went undefeated into the 5A playoffs to lose to cross-town rival Maize last year. And, they played a Kapaun Mt. Carmel team that only had lost to the fourth best team in the state in Bishop Carroll in the 2020 season.

Even with the difficult schedule and the COVID challenges, the Indians proved that they were a team with a lot of

college-recruited from seniors Trey Adams, Gaven Haselhorst and Bill Scott, along with juniors earning college attention, including Jaren Kanak and Gavin Meyers.

Offensively for the Indians, it was rough to keep consistent starters every week for the team, as juniors Jordan Dale, Dylan Dreiling and Roy Moroni did not get to see a full schedule but still performed well enough to earn league honors.

Dale played in six of the nine games and earned fourth in passing yards (472 yards), second in interceptions (four), first in completion percentage (55.7 percent), fourth in rushing yards (482 yards) and tied for first in rushing touchdowns (seven).

Dreiling competed in all but one game, getting third in rushing (488 yards) and tying for first in touchdowns (seventh).

Kanak played as mainwide receiver but also running back and even quarterback for the

Indians at Maize South in Week 7 without Dale and Dreiling available; he earned fifth in rushing yards (379 yards), sixth in touchdowns (fourth), seventh in receiving yards (203 yards) and fifth in the league (18 receptions).

Junior wide receiver Carson Kieffer was fourth best in receiving with 288 yards and fourth in receptions with 21 on the season. He also scored two touchdowns on the season.

On the other side of the ball, the Indians had a stout defense, led by defensive coordinator, Lavton Hickel. His players allowed 2,006 total yards through the season, allowing each team an average of 250.8 yards a game.

Meyers had 87 tack-(third place), tackles for loss (second place), two interceptions (sixth place) and three caused fumbles (tied for second place).

Junior Dalton Dale had a solid year, as well, being in sixth place at 75 tackles and having two interceptions on the year,

being  $_{
m the}$ six, against Dodge City on Homecoming night. Dale forced two fumbles and grabbed two fumbles.

Junior Gavin Nutting had a decent year at defensive tackle, earning nine tackles for loss, tackling 50 opponents.

Senior Tucker Veach had a good year at strong safety, making 62 tackles and catching three interceptions.

Adams missed the final two games, but that would not stop him from earning fourth place in sacks with three and having 12 tackles for loss.

Hays High has one senior, Haselhorst, who is getting calls to start on Saturdays after having a monstrous year. He tackled 77 opponents, sacked quarterbacks six times (first), earned 32 tackles for loss (first), caused four forced fumbles (first), while being double-teamed and event triple-teamed.

Seniors wearing the Indian helmet for the final time have made a lasting impact on the program,

winning the Western Athletic Conference title for the first time since 2014 when alum Alex Delton was a part of the team.

Over four years of varsity eligibility, the senior class rushed for 29 yards, received 110 yards, tackled 689 opponents, sacked 18 quarterbacks, earned 98 tackles for loss, made 15 interceptions, forced 10 fumbles, recovered 19 fumbles and scored two defensive touchdowns. Special teams earned 155 yards on kickoffs and 23 yards on punt returns.

"This senior class has had to prove a lot to this community, that Hays High has great athletes and a football program that's on the cusp of being a playoff-contending program," head coach Tony Crough said. "I do wish that I had more time coaching these fine young men to go further in their careers, but I am glad they stuck through my process that is 'waking the giant' of Hays High football."

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#### What WAC title would you like to see Hays High bring home before you graduate?

"I would like to see the boys basketball and golf teams win WAC."

-senior Jason Krannawitter

"I would, for sure, like to see the boys basketball team bring home a WAC title.' -senior Alexa Moeckel

"I think that the boys basketball team will claim a WAC title this year.'

-senior TJ Nunnery "I would like to see the

girls basketball team to get a WAC title because it has been a tough two seasons since I have started playing."
—junior Landri Dotts

"I want to see Hays High win another WAC title and just keep up the tradition that is the Hays High baseball." –sophomore Braxton Fritzler

"I would like to be a part of the Hays High soccer team that brings home a Western Athletic Conference title." —freshman Kyzer Fox

"I would like to see the baseball team win a WAC title before I leave."

-freshman Corbin Werth

#### ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



"My season went very well. I think everyone on the cross country team made it really fun. Sports have shaped my life by forming me into the person I am today. Going to state felt like a big accomplishment. It was nice to have the opportunity to go, and I was also very sad that the team could not go."

—freshman Arely Maldonado



"I was really proud of the soccer team this year. Even though it wasn't the end result we wanted, we played the best game of the season when it mattered."

—senior Blake Steiben **ATHLETICS** 

## **MORE RESTRICTIONS**

#### Winter sports, like fall sports, to be affected by COVID-19 protocols

By Cayden Sanders Hays High Guidon

With fall sports at Hays High ending recently, others, including boys basketball and girls basketball, boys and girls wrestling and boys swimming, are on the verge of starting, despite the continued threat of CO-VID.19

"As of Nov. 1, KSH-SAA [Kansas State High School Activities Association] and the local health departments have put not restrictions on the numbers of competitions and the numbers of fans in a certain area even if we are indoors," athletic director Lance Krannawitter said.

However, Krannawitter said the administration is ready to put restrictions on home competitions, such as they did with volleyball this fall. That includes limiting the crowd to only 750 people in the gym, which will be monitored by making spectators buy tickets prior to the event through an online system.

"We have to have limitations on how many fans we can let into the stands, like, for the fall seasons, we held games having limitations set before the competition," Krannawitter said. "I believe down the road or traveling on the road, we will have limitations on how many will be able to attend games."

Krannawitter also said that some home games and annual tournaments, such as the Hays City Shootout and the Bob Kuhn wrestling tournament, will probably have fans leave the gym after a game or a round, then reenter the gyms after they are sanitized, and that the tournaments will also not be as large as normal.

"We know that, right off the bat, we will not have the big tournaments we once held," Krannawitter said. "We will only have a oneday tournament or have only select few of teams to have at the tournament."

Along with fan limitations, there will also be band limitations, as the band is only allotted a set amount time to play during competitions. When the band is not playing, Krannawitter said that announcer Dan Balman will be playing music over the audio system.

Superintendent Ron Wil-

son said in an article published in the *Hays Daily News* on Nov. 11, "[It] puts administrators in tough spots. We just hope our community, our patrons understand it is not about us, it's about the kids and their ability to play the games."

With COVID affecting the numbers of spectators who will be able to attend the indoor events, Krannawitter said that he and the other administrators tried to move some home events to Fort Hays State University's Gross Memorial Coliseum, but they were unable to do so.

"We tried asking them if we could rent out or use their great facility to host our competitions, but with the rules and stipulations put in place by the MIAA and NCAA Division II, they were unable to help us in those regards," Krannawitter said. "The Athletics Department was on board with helping Hays High, but with rules put in place, they were unable to help."

Despite the challenges, Krannawitter said he hopes that the winter season can be completed, but he realizes that changes may need to be made throughout the season.

"We, as athletic directors, will likely know more when we are weeks or even days out from the competitions about what the rules and regulations from KSHSAA and hosting schools are, but as of today, there are just suggestions," Krannawitter said.

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#### WAC Leadership Team provides opportunities to be role models

By Rylie Fairbank Hays High Guidon

Hays High has four outstanding athletes who have been chosen as Western Athletic Conference Leadership Institute Representatives for this year – juniors Kamree Leiker, Wesley Oakley, Aleyia Ruder and Noah Weimer.

"Being selected as WAC representative is actually super cool," Ruder said, "especially cause I think there is a lot of student-athletes at Hays High that are very deserving of recognition in their commitment to school, sports, family and friends and other extracurriculars. I feel like I might've been chosen because I have a loud presence, and I try to stay optimistic throughout sports because the whole point is to have some fun.'

The WAC league consists of Dodge City, Garden City, Great Bend, Hays and Liberal and is one of the longest running associations of original member schools in Kan-



COURTESY PHOTO

Juniors Wesley Oakley, Kamree Leiker, Noah Weimer and Aleyia Ruder serve on the Western Athletic Conference leadership group. They recently went to Dodge City to attend a conference.

sas. It includes 21 sports and the League Marching Band Festival.

"I am honored to represent Hays High at the WAC leadership conferences and learn about how I can be better and do better for others," Leiker said. "Being chosen as a representative means

I must be a role model by showing other athletes at Hays High to lead their peers with sportsmanship and class."

Both Oakley and Weimer agreed that it is humbling to be chosen as a representative because it means that they are role models to other athletes.

"I am proud to be chosen because I feel like I have done something to be chosen," Oakley said. "I feel like I have been chosen because my grades have been good, and I feel like I'm a role model,"

Weimer agreed with those thoughts, saying, "It is an honor to be in WAC leadership because I know that a lot of the underclassman look up to us, so we have to set a good example for them."

In being role models for other athletes, the four provided some advice for younger players.

"My advice to younger athletes is to not be intimidated by the older students, but instead, challenge them to become better leaders," Leiker said, while Oakley said, "Work hard, mainly throughout school, but also in sports. Just stay focused."

Ruder also said that it is important that athletes enjoy their experiences, too.

"My advice for younger athletes would be don't take yourself too seriously, because there really is that fine line between enjoying your sport by allowing yourself to have a laugh at practice and then getting back to your drill, or just plain overdoing yourself," Ruder said. "High school sports are meant to be fun. You meet people who impact your life, you learn so much about yourself and you grow, but you're supposed to enjoy all that, so don't put too much pressure on yourself."

Like Ruder, Weimer agreed that players should take a moment to enjoy the opportunities they have been provided, especially in this day and age with COVID-19.

"If I could give younger athletes some advice, it would probably be just work hard in everything you do and don't take anything for granted because you never know when your last game could be," Weimer said. "Just have fun and enjoy every moment."

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## FALL SPORTS WRAP UP



# Boys Soccer



Hays High vs. Liberal (L) Oct. 1 **Score:** 3-1

Hays High vs. Wichita Classical (L) Oct. 17 **Score:** 3-0

Hays High vs. Wichita Trinity (L) Oct. 20 **Score:** 3-0

Hays High vs. TMP (W) Oct. 22 **Score:** 5-1

Hays High vs. Salina Central (L)

Score: 1-1 (lost in penalty kicks)



GRACE DESBIEN / Indian Call

On Oct. 22, senior Blake Steiben jumps to head a ball during the match against TMP, which was the Indian's last home match.



Hays vs. Maize South (L)

Freshman Arely Maldonado placed ninth at cross country regionals at Great Bend, which qualified her for the state meet, where she places 66th.

**WAC** at Liberal Oct. 15 Boys Varsity: Fifth Girls Varsity: First

Regionals at Great Bend Oct. 24 Boys Varsity: Sixth Girls Varsity: Fourth Individual: Arely Maldonado - Ninth

State at Augusta Oct. 31 Individual: Arely Maldonado - 66th (21:44)



Hays vs. KMC (L)

## Football

## Girls Golf

State at Salina Oct. 20 Team: Fourth Individual: Taleia McCrae - 18th (166), Katie Dinkel - 19th (169), Sophia Garrison - 24th Tie (174), Sierra Smith -44th (195), Abbie Norris - 56th (208)



The girls golf team gathers after receiving their runner-up award at regionals. After placing second at regionals, the team placed fourth at state.



## Volleyball

Hays vs. Larned (W) Scores: 25-10, 25-13, 25-15

Sub-State at Great Bend Hays High vs Great Bend (L) Scores: 25-20, 25-19



Junior quaterback Jordan Dale releases a pass meant for junior reciever Jaren Kanak. Kanak had to step into the quaterback role when Dale and junior Dylan Dreiling were put into quarantine towards the end of their season. The Indians finished with a 5-3 record and a league title.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## New online video game encourages students to interact

By McKena McBride

Hays High Guidon

Have you ever wondered which one of your friends may have homicidal tendencies? If so, the new game "Among Us" may be the safest way for you to find out.

"Among Us" originally came out in 2018 but surpassed a surge in downloads this August and September.

The online multiplayer game allows a player to compete with up to 10 players. Out of these 10 players, one to three of them could be assigned the role of imposter once the round starts, while the rest of the group are crewmates.

The crewmates travel around the map completing tasks, while the imposters attempt to sabotage the crew while also killing the crewmates off without getting caught. Once a body is found by a crewmate, the group receives a certain amount of time to discuss who could be voted off as The Imposter.

Students discovered the game in several different ways, such as through their friends or through social media.

According to students, the



game has quickly become a new addiction.

"I play 'Among Us' a lot," senior Johnessa Gay said. "I play it almost every day.

Senior Cami Moore said she also plays "Among Us" very of-

"I play it about every other day," Moore said. "I always play it with buddies, and I have, like, two group chats dedicated to it."

The student opinion seems to be the game is more entertaining when playing with groups of those they are close to.

"I like being able to play a game and have fun with friends during the pandemic," Gay said. "Obviously, we can't have group gatherings, so my friends and I have been making a big Facetime call and playing while talk-

Moore said she mostly plays with friends as well, and that aspect is what makes it fun for

Senior Brendan Kershner said he enjoys the fact that the game helps people connect with each other.

'It requires communication between friends or family members and brings people together to just have fun," Kershner said. "It's not serious, and it's fun to sit down with my brother and sister or friends and just play."

Although a lot of students seem to be obsessed with the game, some say the game is overhyped.

"I think that it has a little too much hype," Kershner said. "Yes, it is very fun, and I enjoy it, but there are other games that have a similar feeling."

Students agree that the game will probably decrease in popularity eventually.

"It could have a lasting effect, but I highly doubt it because it follows a trend, and eventually people will find better things to do," Kershner said.

Gay said that even though the trend might fade, the game is stillworth the time.

"I feel like it's not going to be popular forever, but right now, I think it's a fun game for anyone to play," Gay said.

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# The Haha's

Q: What do you call a running turkey? A: Fast food.

Q: What should you wear to Thanksgiving dinner? A: A har-vest.

Q: What kind of music did Pilgrims listen to? A: Plymouth rock.

Q: What smells the best at Thanksgiving? A: Your nose.

Q: When the Pilgrims landed, where did they stand? A: On their feet.

Q: Who isn't hungry at Thanksgiving? A: The turkey, because he's already stuffed.

Q: Why did the Pilgrims sail from England to America? A: Because they missed their plane.

Q: What always comes at the end of Thanksgiving? A: The letter "g".

# **Top Picks**

1. "Yeah Right" -Joji

2. "Moon & Stars" -\$not

3. "Redbone" -Childish Gambino

4. "Wolves" -Kanye West

5. "White Iverson" -Post Malone

6. "Money Trees" -Kendrick Lamar

7. "Mona Lisa" -Lil Wayne

8. "Heat Waves" -Glass Animals

9. "Taking a Walk" -Trippie Redd

10. "Trust" -Brent Faiyaz





- "Citation"

"Operation Christmas"

- "Kindred"

Nov. 14 - "Christmas on Wheels"

Nov. 20 - "Peace"

Nov 25 - "The Croods: A New Age"

### Sony PlayStation releases update that sparks controversy

By Grant Tesluk

On Oct 14, PlayStation announced a new software update that has been a source of controversy. With the new update, Sony now warns players that their voice chats may be recorded and used by Sony for action.

It turns out that this has been a feature of PlayStation since 2013; the 8.0 update has warning message alerting Play-Station owners that others may be recording them.

When the update dropped, there was immediate backlash about the policy, which forced Sony to clarify that it was not listening in on conversations in party chat mode, but rather would only mete out penalties through "moderation."

Another aspect the 8.0 update added was new parental controls, which essentially allow parents control over which games their children use chat in.

The child can request permission from his or her parents, and parents can allow their children to chat and view the user-generated content in that particular

However, PlayStation owners are now turning their attention to the brand-new PS5.

Coming to the market on Nov. 11, the new PS5 will have 4k Blu-ray playback, immersive 3D audio, clever haptic feedback technology and top-notch streaming apps. The retail price for the new console comes to \$499, which is the same price as its main competition, the Microsoft Xbox Series X.

There are actually twoversions of the PS5 that will be released; one has an optical disc drive, and one is a "Digital Edition" that without does the disc drive.

By far, the biggest selling point of Play-Station is the number of ex-

clusives compared to Microsoft. PlayStation has more than 300 exclusives, while Microsoft has less than half of that amount.

This difference shows, with PlayStation having more than 50 million more sales when comparing the PS4 and Xbox 1.



GRANT TESLUK / The Guidon

Junior George Montgomery said he prefers PlayStation to Xbox.

"I think PlayStation has an advantage in the sense of exclusives," Montgomery said. "I also believe that PlayStation is more consistent when it comes to its users."

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#### YOUR VIEW

#### What is your favorite streaming service and why?

"My favorite streaming platform is Disney+ because they added 'Hamilton,' so I've been binge watching it"

-junior Macy Meyers

"My favorite streaming platform is Netflix because it has a variety of TV shows.'

-freshman Kaiden Bunger

"I like to watch Netflix because it has a bunch of different shows and movies you can choose from.'

—freshman Avrianna Burk

"My favorite streaming platform is Netflix because it has cool movie and shows on it."

-freshman Evan CosgriffGuth-

"I think Hulu is the best because they have very good shows.' -freshman Gavin Flaska

"I think Amazon Prime because you can get anything for cheap.' —freshman Elijah McCullough

## Streaming services include negative aspects

By Maysyn Tippy Hays High Guidon

Many students and staff may have grown up watching the "Charlie Brown" holiday cartoons - "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" at Halloween, "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" in November and "A Charlie Brown Christmas" in December. However, there have been many movies and shows that have been removed from television and have been added to direct streaming services, just like the "Charlie Brown" cartoons have moved to Apple TV+.

While streaming services, such as Apple TV+, Disney Plus, Hulu and Netflix, have grown in popularity, each streaming service has its downsides, whether that be the presence of low-quality content or the unavailability of content that matches every person's tastes.

"I think it would be nice for all the streaming services to combine into one and offer everything all together," sopho-more Aspen Melvin said. "It plethora of different television would probably be more expensive, but worth it because there will be thousands of more options.

Senior Franklin Owens agreed that streaming services could improve through some changes.

"A big change I would make includes allowing all movies or shows to be streamed on each service while simultaneously ensuring that the producers and owners of said productions are being properly compensated," Owens said. "I think the downside to streaming a show or movie would be that the movie or show doesn't actually get the credit for said stream. Only the platform used gets the money or the view time.'

While there are negative aspects to streaming services, the students also pointed out that there are positive ones, too.

"I love Netflix and Disney Plus," Melvin said. "I really series, and I spend a lot of time watching different TV shows, especially when I am traveling. It also has cheesy Christmas movies, which are always a blast. I really enjoy Disney Plus because it has a lot of shows and movies that I watched growing up."

While having those shows and movies available on long trips and over breaks can be helpful to stay preoccupied, it can also be distracting.

"Personally, I don't subscribe to any streaming services, however, I do use my sister's Netflix account on occasion," Owens said. "One downside is that I don't think having so much mindless entertainment at our fingertips is healthy. Rather than being encouraged to binge watch shows and movies, people should be more advised to take healthy breaks, and remember to hydrate and eat nutritious foods."

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