



LONG DISTANCE
Freshman Hannah Tross leaves her family behind in New York state to attend school in Hays
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BROADWAY STAR
Alum Jacob Gutierrez discusses current state of performance industry, gives advice to students
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THE GUIDON

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HOLIDAYS

Organizations plan activities throughout holiday season

By Maysyn Tippy
Hays High Guidon

As the holidays approach, multiple clubs and organizations at Hays High are trying to help others however they can.

“FFA just completed a food drive, where we collected non-perishable items from our members and donated them to the food pantry here at Hays High,” FFA sponsor Nikole Cain said. “We collected over 160 items, which will go directly to helping end hunger for students who attend Hays High.”

Cain said the organization tries to help in any way they can, and they stand by their motto of “Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.”

“We do multiple things,” senior Monique Williams said. “These include helping at the St. Joseph’s food pantry, collecting canned goods and sending holiday cards to the residents of Homestead of Hays.”

For FFA, Williams said she brought in 10 canned items for the Hays High food pantry and helped mark off bar codes, then pack and distribute food boxes.

“I always love helping with these events,” Williams said. “It’s my way of giving back to the community and helping those in need. I always come out feeling better.”

Later this month, FFA will be doing a pod bowling event and a Christmas leadership lock-in.

“Members of FFA are going bowling if they have completed their pri-

or forms for events that we have/will be hosting throughout the year,” Cain said. “This activity allows all FFA members a chance to socialize with one another and celebrate the completion of the semester.”

Williams said events like this help the club, too.

“I enjoy helping my pod members with their tasks,” Williams said. “It gives them confidence that they can accomplish their tasks, and it helps them to feel more comfortable while talking to people in the community.”

The FFA Christmas leadership lock-in is also a great way to meet new people in the club, she said.

“This experience always helps to bring our FFA members together,” Williams said. “It helps them to make friends within FFA.”

Like FFA, other clubs have also completed holiday projects to help others.

From Dec. 7-11, Student Council sold candy canes, with the proceeds going towards NHS Holiday Help project.

For that project, NHS collected donations and purchased groceries Nov. 30 to Dec. 4 and Dec. 7-11 to provide food for the Hays High food pantry.

Likewise, the Helping Hands class sponsored a food and donation drive from Nov. 16-20 for area food pantries.

“My favorite part of being able to help with the food pantry is getting to see the generosity in the community,” junior Lauryn Miller said.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS Holiday Help

National Honor Society assists a record number of families

By Allison Brooks
Hays High Guidon

For most families, the holidays are a time of celebration and joy, but for some families, it is hard put a meal on the table or to even think about buying presents.

The local National Honor Society (NHS) chapter tries to combat this issue with its annual Holiday Help Project, which the organization completed at the start of December.

Their goal is to make this time of year less stressful for struggling families in the school and the community.

One major aspect of the project is donating groceries to families in need who have children who attend Hays High. NHS members were given grocery lists to purchase that each had a theme or that could be used to make one meal.

“Normally we ‘adopt’ 10 to 12 families; however, this year, we have 17 families that we will be providing for,” sponsor Kayla Brown said.

Brown has held this position alongside sponsor Cheryl Shepherd-Adams for the past five years, but this project has been going on for many years before that.

Another big part of the project is getting monetary or gift card donations from businesses and donors throughout the community.

The senior NHS of-



ALLISON BROOKS / The Guidon

Senior Ginny Ke, the National Honor Society vice president, places a grocery bag on a table corresponding to the number on the tag. Each member of NHS was responsible for a certain grocery list for one of the anonymous families helped through NHS’s Holiday Help Project.

ficers were tasked with contacting the businesses to ask for these donations. It was an opportunity to develop leadership skills while also helping local families.

NHS president Alicia Feyerherm contacted around 10 businesses, mainly including salons, plus a few bigger businesses, such as Walmart.

“Some were harder to get in touch with than others, and sometimes, it took a couple follow-up calls to get through to the people

in charge of the donations,” Feyerherm said.

However, Feyerherm said she is thankful for this opportunity to learn resilience and is proud that her work is directly impacting her peers.

“I really love how localized Holiday Help is,” Feyerherm said. “Everything goes directly to families at Hays High. We are directly impacting the students here, and that warms my heart.”

Overall, Brown said the project has run very

smoothly this year and is proud of all the work NHS members put in.

“I really enjoy seeing the NHS students work so hard to put together a fabulous project that helps their own classmates,” Brown said. “Members are usually surprised by the amount that each family receives each year. The families are also always very gracious and thankful for the assistance during the Christmas Break.”

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STUDENT LIFE

Student Council holds tryouts for virtual Talent Show

By Alicia Feyerherm
Hays High Guidon

COVID-19 has impacted many facets of our lives, especially at school. There are no student spectators at sporting events, no all-school assemblies, no traditional school dances, no Fall Musical and the list goes on.

Despite this, Student Council has been trying to find ways to preserve as many school activities as possible, including the annual Talent Show.

“This year’s Tal-

ent Show will be like ‘America’s Got Talent,’” StuCo vice president Ginny Ke said. “We are planning to have the contestants perform in front of a group of preselected students, which the audio/video class will record.”

Ke has been working with teachers to set up tryouts and has been in communication with those in Tribe Broadcasting to make sure proper recording equipment is available for the show.

The recording of the Talent Show will be sent

out to PRIDE Time teachers and played during class. The student body will be given the opportunity to vote on the winners, unlike previous years when the winners were decided by a panel of teachers and students.

“The advantages of having the Talent Show this way allows all the students to vote and takes some pressure and nerves off the contestants,” Ke said.

However, a virtual show means contestants will not get to experience

the whole student body cheering them on, like in previous years.

“It’s a little upsetting, as we would love to perform live in front of the rest of our peers, but we still love doing the Talent Show regardless of the circumstances,” junior Shirley Lee said.

Talent Show tryouts were Dec. 7 and Dec. 11 during PRIDE Time. Contestants auditioned in front of a small panel of teachers.

“I’m really confident [about tryouts],” Lee said.

“Tre [Jones] and I practice all the time, and because we both enjoy it, it makes it fun.”

Jones and her brother, senior Tre Jones, performed in last year’s Talent Show and placed second. Performing last year has helped the siblings grow their confidence, she said.

“After finding out that people enjoyed our performance, we found out that we enjoyed the experience and wanted to do it again,” Lee said.

After tryouts, the acts

will have several weeks to perfect their talents.

“We plan to have the Talent Show sometime after Winter Break to give the acts enough time to rehearse and prepare,” Ke said.

While this year’s Talent Show will look different than previous years, Ke said she is still excited to see the show.

“The Talent Show happens once a year, and it’s always cool to see the talent within our school,” Ke said.

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YOUR VIEW

What do you think is the most important part of a healthy relationship?

“I think each person should treat the other equally and respectfully.”
—senior Cristina Leos

“Commitment and communication — when you communicate, you can get through your problems, and when you stay committed, you don’t just give up on the other person.”
—junior Seren Sumaya

“I’d probably say communication, working through your problems and making sure that you’re both on the same page.”
—sophomore Blake Buckles

“Respect — a relationship doesn’t just need love and care because you can fake that, and there’s a lot of toxic people that do that. So, if you can prove to your significant other that you respect them just as much as they should respect you, then that’s probably the main part.”
—sophomore Sydney Potts

“Probably being loyal to each other and having a good connection. They should have a friendship, too.”
—sophomore Ashton Putz

“It’s where they both agree on things and don’t argue over stuff. They don’t get into gigantic fights.”
—freshman Abigail Boyer

What is your New Year’s resolution for 2021?

“I’m going to try and get more involved and reach out to more people.”
—senior Zach Chance

“I’m going to try to be on my phone less.”
—sophomore Cater Normandin

“I’m going to stay home and not go to parties and protect myself.”
—sophomore JW Perry

“I’m definitely going to stop procrastinating. I want to figure out my plan for college and just realize the importance of the stuff that I am doing now so that it is easier to do and less stressful.”
—sophomore Seth Sumaya

“My resolution is to study more.”
—freshman Bailey Lowry

“I don’t really know what my resolutions are.”
—freshman McKenna Murphy

RELATIONSHIPS

Couples form relationships during COVID-19 with online dating

By Caitlin Leiker
Hays High Guidon

“Love conquers all” — even in an age of social isolation. In an interview with PBS, biologist Justin Garcia from The Kinsey Institute commented on the uses of online dating platforms, direct messaging, texting, videochatting and more to connect with possible partners. “The influence of technology on our romantic lives has been so enormous,” Garcia said. “We have already been in the midst of a digital revolution for human courtship.”

Senior Gabe McGuire from Hays High School and senior Lily Garland from Russell High School have experienced such courtship firsthand. Garland, whose birthday fell on the same day as Prom last April, was downcast at the event’s cancelation due to COVID-19 and at the thought of having to spend her birthday alone due to the statewide lockdown. This led to Garland’s friend throwing her a birthday party, where McGuire and Garland met. The two immediately clicked. “During her birthday Zoom, I was playing ‘Selah’ from Kanye West’s ‘Jesus is King’ album, and she started reciting some of the lyrics,” McGuire said. “I was instantly hooked.

She’s obviously gorgeous, as well.”

McGuire and Garland began communicating daily during quarantine through Snapchat and Zoom, often staying up through the night until 7 a.m., falling asleep with each other still on the call — an occurrence that Garland said is one of her best memories. “I got to learn everything about him from those 17-hour Zooms,” Garland said. “Heck, our first date was even over Zoom. Even if we don’t see each other in person, which sucks a lot, I know that we can still connect in some way over the internet.”

Before the emergence of COVID-19, Stanford’s School of Humanities and Sciences found that 39 percent of heterosexual couples and 60 percent of same-sex couples reported meeting online in 2017. In a study by *www.match.com*, only 6 percent of all singles were using a video platform to meet a potential date.

However, that number jumped to 69 percent of all singles who said they would be open to videochatting with someone they met online during quarantine; 22 percent of respondents also said they would consider a relationship with someone they had not met in person. Dating app activity has also been off the charts, with OKCupid seeing a 700 percent increase in its number of users. On March 29, Tinder reported that it saw more engagement than on any other day in its history, clocking more than 3 billion users. Snapchat is also a common way for teens to get to know each other. That is how junior Tyler Solida from Hays High and junior Alexis Bohma from Thomas More Prep. made their connection.

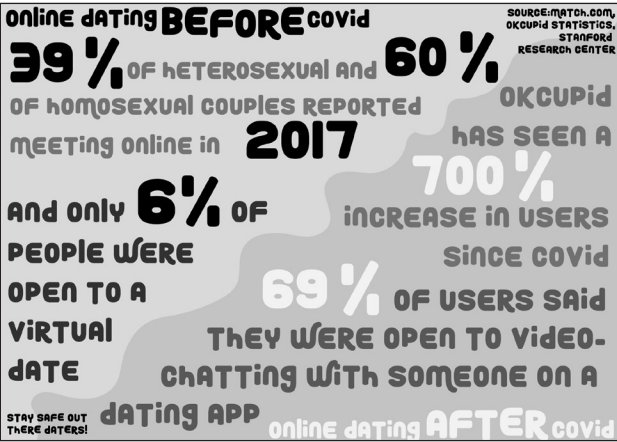
Initially shy about how to approach her, Solida observed Bohma from afar, avoiding the check-out lines at Dillon’s where she bagged groceries. It was not until Bohma added him on Snapchat that he finally built up the courage to talk to her, and he soon realized how easy it was as their bond grew.

“I have never had the best luck with talking to girls, and it was always nerve racking and stressful,” Solida said. “I realized I was really attracted to Alexis when we hung out for the first time. We were both such dorks the entire time, and it was so much fun. After we hung out that first day, I couldn’t get her or her gorgeous smile

Both Solida and Bohma, along with many other student couples, said that trust and respect are among the most important aspects in a relationship. “Having no trust causes stress for both people, and leads to frequent arguing, constant worry and lost connection,” Bohma said. “If the person you are with doesn’t respect you, you’ll eventually begin to lack self-worth and self-love. If you truly love the person that you are with, respect shouldn’t even be an issue. It should all flow naturally.”

Garland said that her time with McGuire up to this point has strengthened her belief in fate, more so in “twin flames.” Sometimes referred to as a “mirror soul,” twin flames signify an intense connection between two people — a person’s “other half” — based on the idea that sometimes one soul gets split between two bodies. “Even if he didn’t come to my party, I still think that Gabe and I would have been together at some point,” Garland said. “Gabe feels like the answer to every question I’ve ever had. Even if we aren’t meant to be together forever, he’s still the first guy to show me what love is supposed to feel like. To me, that has a dash of fate in it.”

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ALEXIS PFANNENSTIEL/The Guidon

Students anticipate new year after events of 2020, particularly COVID-19

By Rylie Fairbank
Hays High Guidon

This year has been... different. As 2020 nears an end, many people reflect on the past year and the future too.

“I think this year was a year of learning and coming together,” sophomore Amedee Randle said. “I believe 2020 has taught me a lot mentally and physically, with COVID and just 2020 being crazy. I think this is a year nobody will forget, and it’s crazy how, one day, I’ll be able to tell my children what happened.”

Even with so much to be anxious or upset about, many students are thankful for what they have and for memories they made. “My favorite memory from 2020 was the month of January,” junior Samantha Vesper said. “New Year’s was really fun, and we were all optimistic.”

Some enjoyed the brief second semester, like Vesper, but some preferred the extended “summer.”

“My favorite part of 2020 is probably the longer summer we had,” senior Cody Walters said.

The extended break was a perfect time to try new hobbies and be with family and friends.

“My favorite memory of 2020 is just hanging out with friends every day and going to the lake in the summer,” senior Claire Shippy said.

For some, the best part of going back to school was not only seeing friends and participating in school activities, but also returning to a normal routine.

“I would say that my favorite memory from 2020 was going to the football games for what was supposed to be marching band, and just having fun and playing well,” freshman Evan Tschanz said.

Like Tschanz, junior Elizabeth Clingan said she enjoyed the beginning of the school year.

“One of my favorite memories from this year was Homecoming,” Clingan said. “I had a great night dancing and laughing with my friends.”

While everyone reflects on the past year, some have high hopes for 2021.

“My hopes for 2021 is that things will be back to normal again, but I’m sure that’s what everybody’s wanting right now,” Vesper said. “If I had to pick a resolution for 2021, it would be to try harder in everything — to put more effort into and care about the things I do. Since everything is so uncertain right now, I’m finding that really hard to do. I’m not quite sure how that’s gonna happen exactly, so I’m just gonna see what the new year gives me and go on from there.”

Even if one’s resolution is something seemingly silly, goals are worth making.

“Some of my resolutions are to eat better, not so much junk food, read the Bible more often and also be more positive because nothing good is going to happen unless you have a positive mindset,” Randle said. “Being positive is a choice, and I’m just the type of person to bring a positive outlook on situations and always helping, but I want to do a better job on always making people feel good about themselves and loving them for who they are.”

Clingan has also set New Year’s resolutions.

“My resolutions for next year are simply to get in better shape and eat healthier,” Clingan said. “I’m going to have my family and friends hold me accountable.”

Shippy said she is looking forward to some normalcy in life again.

“My hopes for 2021 is that we all graduate on time and can have a normal start to college,” Shippy said. “I’m hoping things will get better with the virus so we can all get back to normal life.”

Tschanz shared Shippy’s hopes for 2021.

“I think the only thing that I want from 2021 is for the pandemic to be gone, so everything would be back to normal,” Tschanz said.

Unlike the rest, Walters said he is not making resolutions, but sticking to a normal routine in life.

“I don’t usually make New Year’s resolutions because, who really pulls through with their resolutions anyway?” Walters said. “I’m also probably not going to make anything new happen next year, except stick to the old grind.”

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SAFETY

WINTERY CONDITIONS

With winter approaching, common tips can help drivers remain safe

By Maysyn Tippy
Hays High Guidon

It is nearly that time of year – when the weather gets colder and the roads become dangerous.

“The weather affects my morning schedule,” sophomore Maggi Lindenmeyer said. “It just makes me want to stay in bed and not get up because I am so warm and cozy when I wake up, and I just don’t want to get up and go out into the cold air. That makes it hard for me to get up early and get ready for school most mornings.”

During winter, many students alter their routines so they can be safe on the roads, while still getting to school on time.

“I have to leave about 10 minutes earlier,” sophomore Eileen Veatch said. “Where I live, the roads aren’t usually salted by the time I leave.”

Along with changing their morning routines, students can prepare for the weather and the road conditions.

“I prepare to drive in the cold weather by warming my car up first thing in the morning, so when I get in, it’s nice and warm,” Lindenmeyer said. “I also turn on my defroster to make sure my windshield is defrosted and at a point to where I can see enough to drive safely.”

Multiple students agreed that this is what they do to prepare.

“I wake up earlier,” junior Alan Apodaca said. “Then I start my car before I leave so it warms up.”

In order to prevent accidents, experts suggest allowing extra time, slowing way down and using more caution.

“I drive slow because there could be ice on the road, and if I go too fast, then my wheels could hit the ice and make me slide, and I could possibly get into a wreck,” Lindenmeyer said. “I also watch out for people because someone else could be going fast and hit ice and slide all over and wreck, so I have to be very cautious.”

PREPPING FOR COLD WEATHER

clean your cars side view mirrors so youll be able to see around you

in frigid weather warm up the car before you drive

if the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm if possible; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions

accelerate and decelerate slowly

ALEXIS PFANNENSTIEL / The Guidon

Sophomore Carter Normandin agreed that driving slowly helps, but he said putting his vehicle into four-wheel drive helps in snow, too.

“My advice is to just make sure you are always paying attention to the people around you,” Lindenmeyer said. “Always make sure you are driving slowly and safely.”

Veatch also said that being aware and limiting distractions while driving, in addition to driving at a speed with which she is comfortable, helps. She added that it is always better to be safe than sorry.

“Just be smart and safe,” Veatch said. “Don’t be reckless in dangerous weather.”

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People may experience Seasonal Affective Disorder during winter months

By Meg Taggart
Hays High Guidon

According to the Davenee Foundation, 20 to 30 percent of teenagers will experience symptoms of depression before they reach adulthood.

Depression can be caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain, but that brief explanation does not do the illness justice. There are billions of chemical reactions that make up the dynamic system that is responsible for a person’s mood and perceptions. So, saying that depression is just an imbalance is too minimal.

A chemical imbalance in the brain is not the only cause of depression, either, according to Harvard Health Publishing; depression can stem from anxiety issues, mood regulations, genetic vulnerabilities, life events, some medications and some other medical problems.

“You should keep your routine and schedule for everything in check so that anxiety doesn’t get high because, when anxiety gets high, depression can also hit as well because, often times, depression and anxiety are linked,” school psychologist Nicki Lind said.

Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD, is a specific depressive disorder that is linked to the changing seasons. SAD, which causes people to feel less energetic and more moody, in general, affects most people during fall or winter; it is less common for people to feel these effects in the spring and summer months.

Interestingly enough, there are two variations of SAD that have very different symptoms. Fall and winter SAD includes oversleeping and weight gain, while spring and summer SAD includes insomnia and weight loss.

According to the Mayo Clinic, “You shouldn’t brush off that yearly feeling as simply a case of the ‘winter blues’ or a seasonal funk that you have to tough out on your own. Take steps to keep your mood and motivation steady throughout the year.”

Though the symptoms may seem bearable, it is common for people to turn to alcohol or drugs to cope. But, treatments do exist.

Seeing a doctor or a counselor is the best way to receive the most effective treatments, but eating healthy and exercising more will do some good, too. When one exercises, the brain releases endorphins, including serotonin and dopamine, which are the chemicals responsible for making a person feel confident and happy.

In the case of SAD, there is also phototherapy, or light therapy, to mimic sunlight to improve one’s mood.

“These illnesses are absolutely treatable by seeing a doctor and getting a prescription, or by simply getting good sleep, having a good diet, having an exercise routine and by making sure you have someone who you can talk to about your experiences,” Lind said.

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YOUR VIEW

How do you prepare for driving in winter weather?

“I don’t need to prepare because I’m always prepared.”
—junior Aidan DeBay

“I defrost the car, I put salt on the ground and I try to leave five to 10 minutes early.”
—junior Stanna Flinn

“I drive very, very slowly.”
—junior Liahna Hyatt

“You throw sandbags or something heavy in the back of your vehicle, and you throw tire chains on your tires.”
—junior Adam King

“I turn my car on, and that’s it.”
—junior Sydney Wittkorn

“When I drive, I will drive in four-wheel drive.”
—sophomore Taylor Depenbusch

“I just try to be careful and not crash.”
—sophomore Greg Hughes

“I drive slower.”
—sophomore Daimon Lang

“I drive safe, and I try to be careful.”
—sophomore JW Perry

“I drive a little slower and defrost my windows.”
—sophomore Grayson Walburn

What is your favorite season, and why?

“I love summer because that is when I go to the lake.”
—sophomore Carly Lang

“Fall is my favorite because I love wearing sweaters.”
—sophomore Savannah Lawson

“My favorite season is summer because I enjoy the warm weather, and I like being able to hang out with my friends and do fun stuff.”
—sophomore Bryce Salmans

“Spring is my favorite season because of softball.”
—sophomore Madyson Sennett

“My favorite is winter because I like to go hunting.”
—sophomore Carson Spray

What area of science interests you the most, and why?

“I think that chemistry is definitely the most interesting because there’s so many different aspects of it. I really like experimenting and learning about different chemicals and compounds.”
—junior Madelyn Martin

“I like chemistry because you get to blow stuff up.”
—junior Dustin Rajewski

“I like quantum physics because of Ant Man.”
—sophomore Greg Hughes

Team of seniors places second at University of Kansas Night at the Lab

By Nikka Vuong
Hays High Guidon

Seniors Alex Aldrich, Ginny Ke and Kaitlyn Suppes competed in the 2020 University of Kansas Night at the Lab and placed second at state.

Aldrich, Ke and Suppes started working on their project on Oct. 22, competed at regionals on Nov. 7 and competed at state on Nov. 19.

“Our project was over radiation and how it affects cancer,” Suppes said. “We narrowed it down to brain cancer and glioblastomas. We had about two weeks to research and create our presentation before the deadline, which we used our class time during school. We found out we made it to state a week after regionals, and we were pleasantly surprised that we made it that far.”

Aldrich said instructor Lynn Zimmerman introduced them to the KU Night at the Lab opportunity in Human Biology.

“She was our sponsor throughout the competition and helped tremendously throughout it,” Aldrich said.

Ke said the entire competition was over Zoom and video, whereas in the past, regionals were in Colby, and state was in Kansas City.

Aldrich, Ke and Suppes submitted a pre-recorded video for both regionals and state.


“Our PowerPoint was the same, but we had to change our speaking parts because our audience was different from regionals,” Ke said. “At regionals, we were targeting the public, while at state, we were mainly speaking to doctors and individuals educated in the medical field.”

For their second-place finish, Aldrich, Ke and Suppes will be receiving a certificate and plaque.

Both Aldrich and Suppes said they found the most challenging part about the competition was answering the questions the judges asked them, as well as the limited time they had prior to the competition.

“It was very fascinating to see presentations made by students from all the different regions in Kansas,” Aldrich said. “It was a great experience that allowed me to get out of my comfort zone.”

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YOUR VIEW

What collection would you like to start, and what is the weirdest collection you have heard of?

“I’d start a fossil collection, mostly because of getting to see what I consider one of the weirdest/most amazing collections I’ve heard of. I had a neighbor who was a hobbyist paleontologist and had collected around five tons of rocks, artifacts and fossils lying around the ranch in five-gallon buckets.”
—junior Carson Brooksher

“I would start a collection art supplies. The weirdest collections are collections of creepy, porcelain dolls.”
—junior Stanna Flinn

“I already have a collection of Disney stuff, Beanie Babies and dolls. I know of people who collect books.”
—junior Emma Kuhn

“I would like to start collecting key chains from places that I’ve traveled to. The weirdest collection I’ve heard of is a back-scratcher collection.”
—junior Hayli Meier

“If I were to start a collection, I would do a rock collection and get different stones from all over the world. The weirdest collection I’ve heard of was a fingernail collection.”
—freshman Avrianna Burk

“I would start a collection of football cards. The weirdest collection I’ve heard of was a rubber duck collection.”
—freshman Gavin Flaska

“I would start a shoe collection because I like shoes, and I have a lot of them. The weirdest collection I’ve heard of was a card collection.”
—freshman, Edwin Muller

Would you want to be an exchange student if you had the chance?

“No, because I am content with the average education that I am getting in the United States right now.”
—junior Karson Russell

“Yes, I would love to go to Ireland. They talk so funny. Or, [I would go to] England. Absolutely.”
—sophomore Raena Anderson

“Yes, it would be nerve wrecking but also exciting.”
—sophomore Kaden McBride

“Yes, because I feel like it would be cool to see different parts of the world and hear different languages, but fluently.”
—freshman Brooke Leiker

“No, because I would like to know other people around me.”
—freshman Keanan Rigler

“No, no I would not. I would be an outcast, I would say.”
—freshman Connor Rodger

HUMAN INTEREST

QUIRKY COLLECTIONS

Students build collections to showcase hobbies, exercise creativity

By Alexandra Coveney
Hays High Guidon

Collections can come in all colors, numbers, shapes and sizes. Some popular collectible items are antique furniture, vinyl records, comic books, coins, postage stamps, baseball cards and toys.

Among the students at Hays High, there are some who collect objects.

Sophomore Cade Becker has a collection of Hot Wheels toy cars.

“I started the collection because I have high interests in vehicles,” Becker said. “I never really had an idea to start collecting; I just had a bunch from when I was little and decided to keep expanding.”

Becker took an interesting approach with his collection, as he started selling the toy cars, too.

“I buy large quantities of Hot Wheels and sell them on eBay, and I’ve even sold some for near \$100,” Becker said.

Becker has a collection of nearly 1,000 cars that he hopes to quintuple.

“I hope to continue to do this because it’s not only a cool thing to look at, but it also forms a good business that helps me have money,” Becker said. “To me, it’s cool that I can have one of my dream cars in a little model for a small price.”

Junior Aidan DeBay started his auto-related collection at a young age.

“I myself have a col-



ALEXANDRA COVENY / The Guidon

Senior Elijah Zimmerman poses with some of his array of reusable Starbucks cups, holding “the crown jewel” of his collection. Zimmerman said he matches his cups to his outfits, stylizing the cups as accessories.

lection of license plates,” DeBay said. “When I was younger, I found a souvenir plate with my name on it in a travel store, which started me off. Then, exploring around my grandparent’s farm, I found a bunch of old Kansas license plates.”

DeBay estimates he has upwards of 80 plates.

“I have continued to grow this collection, including getting license plates from the state of Alaska,” DeBay said.

“Many of my plates are Kansas tags, and the best ones are the old, rusty ones with ‘character.’”

Freshman Hannah Tross has collection of books.

“I was around 7 years old when I started to fall in love with chapter books, and the magical worlds within them,” Tross said. “All the outrageous stories that could never be true helped to expand my imagination beyond what any movie could!”

Tross currently has more

than 80 chapter books.

“I don’t think I’ll stop getting them,” Tross said.

Sophomore Kaley Rajewski has a collection of about 20 snow globes.

“When my dad or anyone in my family went on trips when I was younger, they would always bring back snow globes for me,” Rajewski said. “I guess we have kept that tradition.”

Similarly, junior Grace Wente also has a snow globe collection.

“If I went to a new

state or somewhere cool, I would go to the gift shop and buy a snow globe because I thought they were cool,” Wente said. “I would like to collect more; I just need more room for them.”

Senior Elijah Zimmerman collects many items, including Apple products, YouTube merchandise and erasers, but one of his most recent collections is reusable Starbucks cups, which he hopes to continue “until Starbucks goes out of business.”

“When I was stressed, I would go to Starbucks for a couple of hours and just think,” Zimmerman said. “Then, I would always go before school; it became a routine and my brand.”

Zimmerman said he started buying reusable cups not only because it saved money and he liked the way they looked, but also because it helped him personally.

“I know this sounds weird, but this is one of the main things that helped me to accept that I was gay,” Zimmerman said. “I always knew it since I was 12, but I never accepted it, and I became a horrible person that no one liked, and that I didn’t really like myself either. Every time I would get frustrated, I would go to Starbucks. I guess some people use drugs and alcohol, but my coping mechanism is Starbucks, and this is how my collection started.”

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Freshman opts to move to Kansas this year for her education

By McKena McBride
Hays High Guidon

This year, there have not been any exchange students at Hays High due to COVID-19. However, there is a student who found her way to Hays High despite the current events.

Freshman Hannah Tross temporarily moved to Hays from Watertown, N.Y., during the summer before this school year.

Tross originally moved to Hays, without the company of her family, for the chance to leave her hometown, expecting to stay in Kansas for one month during the summer.

“I don’t like staying in one place for too long,” Tross said. “I love to travel. I love being everywhere else rather than where I’m usually living.”

Tross moved in with the Morely family, who are family friends.

At the end of the summer, Tross and her family agreed that Kansas schools had better reopening plans regarding COVID-19 than schools in New York.

Tross toured Hays High, and after meeting principal Martin Straub and some faculty members, she and her family decided Hays High would be a good fit for her.

Over Thanksgiving, Tross returned to New York. After this reunion, the Tross family decided she should remain in Kansas over Winter Break.

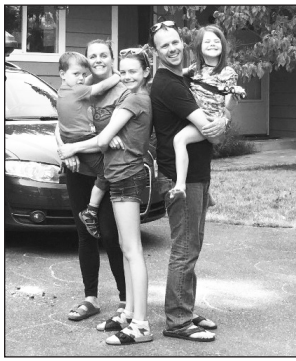
“I was planning on going back [to New York] for Thanksgiving, coming back here to Hays and spending time in school here and then going back to New York for Christmas over Christ-

mas break, but there was a concern that if I got COVID or if one of my family members did, and we got quarantined, I would only be able to spend roughly a week here [in Hays] anyways,” Tross said.

Tross said that, when she first moved here, visits to her family during major breaks during the school year were promised. Now, not being able to visit her family, Tross said she was worried about being away from her siblings and missing out on important events.

“This is my first time being away from my family members for long periods of time, so I was concerned about the holidays and being able to see my little brother and sister,” Tross said. “I really feel like I have to stand on my own two feet from now on.”

Tross said the biggest



COURTESY PHOTO

In the center, freshman Hannah Tross poses with her parents and siblings. Tross left her family behind in New York state to attend school at Hays High.

adjustment she had to make moving to Hays was doing things on her own.

“I think the more major adjustment that I had to go through was just learning how to sort of do

things on my own, because I didn’t have my family members, and I still really don’t have them here,” Tross said.

Senior Emmy Morely said having Tross stay with her family has not felt strange in any sense.

“I’ve known Hannah for a couple of years now because our dads worked together in the Navy when I lived in Singapore,” Morely said. “We have always gotten along well, so having her stay with us has felt very normal.”

Overall, Tross said that she enjoys being in Hays.

“I love Hays, and I love Hays High,” Tross said. “I really, really do. The people here are awesome, and the school system is so much better. It pushes you to be the best that you can. [Hays] is so fun and kind of freeing.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Q&A with Broadway performer Jacob Gutierrez

By Caitlin Leiker
Hays High Guidon

With the entertainment industry getting sidelined due to COVID-19, countless artists and performers have been left without careers.

Actor Jacob Gutierrez, who attended Hays High School, made his Broadway debut in the ensemble of “Aladdin” and worked his way up to the leading role by the time the pandemic struck. As of late, he has supplemented his daily life and career by pursuing a psychology degree to aid other performers with the stressors they endure, through rejection, injuries and other pressures. Gutierrez said that developing his psychological knowledge has informed his own process as an actor.

As far as current performance opportunities, Gutierrez and his agents have completely shifted their focus to the television market.

Q: When did you first discover that you had found your niche as an actor?

A: “I feel like I fell into it by mistake, to be honest. At the end of my freshman year at Hays High, I decided to audition for Chamber Singers, as I felt this pull into getting involved in singing. I grew up playing piano and was in band at HHS already.

“During the summer between 9th and 10th grade, I participated in this ‘Stomp’-inspired drum routine at my church’s youth conference, and the choreographer for the HHS musicals, Taw-



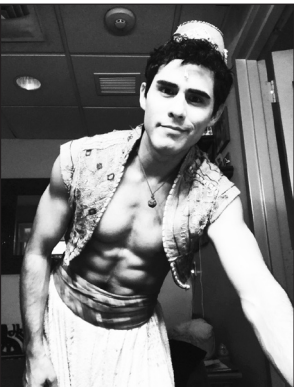
COURTESY PHOTO

nita Augustine, saw me in it. She gave word to Elise Peterson (the director of Chamber Singers at the time), and Miss Peterson gently asked at the start of my sophomore year if I wanted to audition for the school musical, ‘Oliver!’ It wasn’t really on my radar, but I ended up getting cast as a lead.

“It was an entirely new world. I’ll never forget my first rehearsals for the show — I would write down everything [director] Bill Gasper said. I remember Robba Moran, the accompanist at the time, looking at Miss Peterson and going, ‘Why is he writing so many notes?’ And it’s funny now, years later, because I’m still that kind of artist: ‘Give me the framework, and I’ll fill it in.’ But the framework has to be right.

“I don’t think it was until the opening night of ‘Oliver!’ that I realized there actually was something there. The life I felt. The energy from the cast and the audience. The zest or vitality I hadn’t known before. It’s this odd tension you live in while ‘on.’ My parents saw the show and went, ‘Who is this kid? We’ve never seen this.’ It was something I possessed but didn’t quite know. I grew up inherently shy, and it was at the piano, alone in a room, that most of my escape or expression occurred.

“After that, it was all over. Any thoughts of being an architectural engineer or a doctor were shelved: I wanted to be an actor.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Q: Who have been some of the biggest inspirations in your everyday life and theatre journey?

A: “My parents, no question. They have been there at my lowest lows and highest highs, and they consistently provide insight and wisdom. My dad cracks me up and can help me laugh at the ridiculous things I sometimes endure. And, on days it all seems like too much, he’s the one that reminds me where I started: ‘I remember a young kid, from a small Western Kansas town, who wanted to know if he had ‘what it takes.’

“He’s a remarkable encourager. This usually does me a world of good as I’m running about New York on a typical day in the life — from one audition to the next before a rehearsal, the gym and then a show, only to repeat the same thing again the next day.

“When posed this question, people often want to hear of the actors or other artists who have inspired me, and while that is true, I want to make the point to acknowledge how, even as an artist, we pull inspiration from life. The influences and people we surround ourselves with on a daily basis actually serve as the springboard or inspiration to help propel us to the next thing. That’s why my initial response is my parents — beyond them, my siblings. They’re there through it all and can help me recognize my blind spots as a person.

“Aside from my family, I pull a lot of inspiration from the actors I work with. The cast of ‘Aladdin’ on Broadway is remarkable. Incredible talent walks through that stage door. Beyond that, class acts, true professionals and people I glean business wisdom from daily. I even pull inspiration from them on stage, in the moment, during the show.”

Q: What have been some of the most challenging parts of your career? How did you



COURTESY PHOTO

While the theatre sphere has been shut down due to COVID-19, actor Jacob Gutierrez has been pursuing a psychology degree. With his agents shifting focus to the television market, Gutierrez was also recently involved in filming a show for CBS.

overcome them?

A: “The biggest generality would be, ‘For every single ‘yes,’ there are 999 ‘nos.’ Meaning, auditions are a full-time job — sometimes upwards of three to five times a day if you’re in peak audition season or pilot season. You have to get used to being told ‘no,’ for so many reasons beyond your control.

“The biggest strategy to combat the woes of this is building a strong sense of self and consistently refining that. Knowing who you are and what you’re about. Asking the hard questions. Evaluating what your priorities are, and whose opinion actually matters (often times, that list is very short). And then, there comes a point where you just release it all. ‘What can I control? What can I not control?’ This all happens through trial and error, but eventually you find it, because things just begin to click. Auditions start coming in, callbacks go, bookings happen, momentum builds, new agents find you, new casting directors are interested in you and thus, the cycle spins.

“What is paramount in all of this, though, is knowing your self-worth. Self-worth is not dependent on approval. What makes you uniquely you is the most special thing, and nobody else is you.”

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Q: Through all of theatre’s tribulations, why do you choose to continue?

A: “My dreams are bigger than the trials it takes to get there. I love it. At the end of the day, seeing an audience of 1,700 come to life as the downbeat of ‘Arabian Nights’ starts, or hearing a director call ‘cut’ when we’ve ‘got the take,’ all feels pretty surreal. I can’t believe I get to do it. It’s an honor and a privilege to get to do something I love every day. It is not lost on me. It’s that, paired with the possibility of what else could be out there, and living in that tension. It’s limitless if you view it that way. That spark keeps me going.

“But, those are the things you have to tell yourself on days you’re not doing what you love — working three side jobs, running to an audition between shifts at work, being told ‘no’ after seven callbacks for a role. I always say, ‘The gig is the reward. The hustle is the work.’ And the hustle never stops. Pounding the pavement for months or years is the true work. If you’re fortunate enough to put in the 999 reps, you just might get that ‘one.’ And, if you get it, do not take it for granted, because at a moment’s notice, it can all be over.”

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Chamber Singers virtually spread holiday cheer to nursing homes

By Emry Lundy
Hays High Guidon

The Chamber Singers are finding ways to celebrate the holiday season without breaking protocols to protect the community from COVID-19. One way they are doing this is by recording holiday carols to send to nursing homes.

In previous years, the Chamber Singers would tour nursing home facilities in Hays on the last day of the first semester to sing Christmas carols for the residents.

“Knowing that [our usual method] wasn’t on the table for us this year, I had to problem-solve a bit,” director Alex Underwood said. “I didn’t want to abandon the event be-

cause I know nursing home residents are more likely to be in lockdown, have outbreaks at their facilities and be even more lonely than they sometimes are in a normal holiday season.”

Underwood asked various Chamber Singers to contact the local nursing homes to get song requests. Then, once the requests came in, Chamber Singers found and learned the music and recorded and sent videos of the chosen carols. “White Christmas,” “Carol of the Bells” and “Silent Night” were among those suggested by the nursing homes.

“One nursing home requested ‘Silent Night’ in German, and since Chamber Singers has been sing-

ing in German all semester, it took us less than 10 minutes to put that together for them,” Underwood said. “Easy for us, special for them. It’s a win.”

Underwood said he hopes that residents will be “excited to hear their favorite songs performed especially for them.”

All 22 members of Chamber Singers participated in this year’s unique caroling experience.

“It’s not exactly the same, but we are still able to do our part to help give some residents a good experience through our recordings,” senior Ashley Vilaysing said.

Most Chamber Singers were disappointed that the caroling was not in

person this year, but they understood why it was necessary to rely on other means.

“This year, I missed caroling in person, but it is for the safety of the residents, so I understand why it will have to be through sending videos rather than seeing the residents in person,” senior Alisara Arial said.

The caroling visits were not the only thing the Chamber Singers missed out on this year. They also lost their traditional potluck lunch and gift exchange in the basement of the First United Methodist Church. Parents would drop off food, and the Chamber Singers would trade gifts and eat before returning to their caroling

tour of the nursing homes.

Chamber Singers still intended to have a holiday party as a part of class, but it will be in a smaller scale than in previous years. Underwood said that it was going to be “nothing elaborate, but a way to celebrate the end of what has been one of the most challenging and unique semesters of our lifetimes.”

Overall, it will be a very different end of the semester for the Chamber Singers.

“I know that nothing replaces in-person singing, but this is the next best thing,” Underwood said. “And, after the year we’ve had, a little cheer will go a long way.”

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YOUR VIEW

What is one of your favorite Broadway musicals?

“One of my favorite musicals isn’t currently on Broadway, but it used to be, ‘Assassins,’ just because it’s got some really good music from a selection of different genres, which aren’t always necessarily represented on Broadway, and I think, thematically, it deals with some interesting concepts and parts of history that we don’t generally learn about.”

—senior Andrew Duke

“One of my favorite musicals is probably ‘Wicked’ because it was the first musical that my mom ever took me to go see, and it opened up my world to musicals and all these different experiences.”

—senior Ashley Vilaysing

“I love ‘Ordinary Days.’ It romanticizes everyday life and struggle without belittling it.”

—junior Mazzy Sacia

“Anytime I get in my car and pull up Spotify, my musical playlist consists of ‘Wicked,’ ‘Anything Goes,’ ‘The Little Mermaid’ from when I did that and ‘Dear Evan Hansen.’ I’m not much for watching musicals, but the music for me is what really does it.”

—junior Samantha Vesper

“I really like ‘Bright Star’ because of the story. And, the music is amazing. It’s music that I would never listen to, except for if I was in it. That’s another reason I like it so much — I got to be in it! It really opened me up to different kinds of music, and now, I really enjoy bluegrass. And, the characters are loveable, and the storyline is really interesting.”

—junior Sydney Wittkorn

“My favorite musical is ‘Hamilton.’ I got into it around sixth grade. It’s so educational when you look into it, and it has so many parts that describe the characters so well, and just the way the storyline is, I really like it.”

—sophomore Kiearra Gonzalez

“I really enjoy listening to ‘Wicked.’ I think the combination of Idena Menzel and Kristin Chenoweth is killer, and I love the music. Plus, I actually got to see the musical in person once, so it is close to my heart. I also really enjoy listening to music from ‘Guys and Dolls’ because it is on my mom’s playlist, and I grew up listening to it. Same goes for ‘Oklahoma.’”

—sophomore Devlyn Jochum

What has been the best part about this year’s caroling?

“My favorite part about caroling was getting to meet the residents at the nursing homes and brighten their day, then having a Secret Santa party with the choir.”

—senior Alisara Arial

“I really like being able to share music with people out in the real world, outside of structured concerts.”

—senior Andrew Duke

“I think the best part about this caroling experience is making people happy, especially during everything that is happening in 2020.”

—junior Shirley Lee

“I think the best part of the experience is giving people some joyful music to listen to during these times.”

—sophomore Seth Tripp

SHOP 'Till YOU DROP

Technology tops popular holiday gifts

By Cade Becker
Hays High Guidon

Christmas has been celebrated for centuries, and gifts have been shared since the mid-1800s. Many say that giving and receiving gifts are a part of the joy that comes around Christmas.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, which has overwhelmed the world, Christmas may be a relief. According to *www.countryliving.com*, the most popular gifts for any ages during Christmas 2019 included Disney princess dress-up trunks, hand-operated drones, the "What Do You Meme" game, Echo dots and waffle makers.

The most popular gifts for various age groups in 2019, according to *New York* magazine, were Nintendo Switches, Apple AirPods, Funko Pop! figurines, LEGO sets, COZMO robots and many video games, including "FIFA" and "Star Wars: Jedi Fallen Order."

According to *Today*, the most popular gifts this year for children and teenagers include scratch-off maps, Apple AirPods Pros, mask making kits, Elago charging hubs, Spotify gift cards, Vans shoes, bubble tea kits, Hydro Flasks, cameras and video games.

"This year is a little bit different," freshman Lacey Jacobs said. "I don't really feel like I want or need anything for Christmas. I think

I have gotten to that age where if I want something, I will buy it on my own. But, if I had to choose something, it would probably be clothes."

Like Jacobs said, popular gifts for girls this year are clothing/dress items. Additionally, on *www.seventeen.com*, the site listed custom Starbucks Venti cups, Lululemon leggings, scrunchies, geode bath bombs, Playa Aviators and Harry Styles posters as sought-after Christmas gifts for teenage girls.

Recent electronic releases that are also up for grabs during the holidays are the new Sony PlayStation 5, which was unveiled on Nov. 12, or the Xbox Series X and Xbox Series S, born of a Microsoft-Xbox collaboration.

As soon as the consoles came out this fall, they sold out almost instantly. The PlayStation 5 was released only on the internet and not in stores at the beginning, resulting in a Walmart website crash at noon on the product's opening day, according to *Business Insider*. Most only received a console through pre-ordering.

The same *Business Insider* article also stated that, when Walmart received a restock of the PlayStation 5 a couple of days later, the Walmart website was once again declared inoperable. The website would continuously send customers error messages and not let them use the website. It was not long before the second wave of available PlayStation 5 consoles was out of stock.

Business Insider states that it does not know how many PlayStation 5 consoles Walmart had available on Thanksgiving, but

it is clear there were not enough for everyone who wanted the brand-new gaming system.

"Despite our own attempts to buy one, Walmart had sold out of the consoles in less than 15 minutes," the *Business Insider* article said. The same issues also happened during the launch of the other 'next-gen console,' or the Xbox Series X and S. Walmart's website was steadier during the launch of the new Xboxes, but it still had some major issues.

According to sophomore Phillip Veatch, he saw individuals buying up the PlayStation 5 and selling it for over four times its original price, turning a large profit from consumer disparity.

"I think the shortage is ridiculous because of people hoarding it and then selling it for higher prices online," sophomore Philip Veatch said. "People are going nuts over the release of it. I probably won't get one until after I graduate."

Instead of technology gifts, other students wanted gifts to use outdoors, as the students and their families hunt.

"For Christmas, I probably want more decoys for hunting," sophomore Matthew Berner said.

For some, simple gifts, such as food and snacks, were quite popular gifts.

"I do not know what I want for Christmas," sophomore Tony Aerial said. "Just some chocolates and stuff like candy food, and candy."

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Traditional shopping malls 'dying'

By Meg Taggart
Hays High Guidon

Shopping malls have been a staple of American culture for many years, and with the holidays nearing, the nostalgia that malls host is unforgettable. Santa Claus tends to make his appearances in malls, along with the malls' colorful decorations, holiday sales and cozy smells.

However, the once-bustling shopping malls that appear in television shows and popular movies from the 1980s and 1990s have been slowly dying – a trend that had started in the early 2000s with the financial crisis and that has worsened with the COVID-19 pandemic this past year.

"I've noticed that our mall, and other malls around Kansas, have been emptier than I remember," sophomore Amelia Jaeger said. "And, even though I've never spent very much time there, it still makes me sad in a way."

A mall is considered "dead" when it has high vacancy rates, many empty stores and low consumer traffic, meaning that not very many people are coming in. According to a 2015 *New York Times* article, nearly 3 percent of U.S. malls were labeled as "dying," or having a 40 percent or greater vacancy rate, and about 20 percent of American malls were considered "in trouble," or having at least a 10 percent or higher vacancy rate. And, the situation has become even worse since then.

This "retail apocalypse," as *The Atlantic* coined the collapse of malls in 2017, has been caused by many factors, including the increase in online shopping, the changes in spending habits and the current pandemic.

Online sales have grown drastically in the past 20 years, increasing from about \$5 billion a quarter to roughly \$155 billion per quarter, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. A study by Adobe Digital Insights in 2016 showed that, while online sales increased by 11 percent, department stores, such as those traditionally found in malls, faced a 4.8 percent decrease in sales.

"I've been shopping more online recently because it's much more convenient to just shop from home than having to leave, and often times, the products online are cheaper than in person," Hays High teacher Lauren Schriener said.

Another 'mall killer' is the shifting shopping habits of Americans. While, in the 1980s and 1990s, mall department stores were where most people, especially teenagers lounged and shopped, people now shop online or at free-standing "big-box" stores, such as Target or Walmart.

However, in a study, retail economist Ali Hortacsu from the University of Chicago analyzed the modern history of retail sales and discovered the rise of online commerce was actually lower than the increase in supercenters and warehouse clubs. These large one-stop-shop businesses are often just more convenient for consumers in a busy world.

"I make sure to stop at Sam's Club whenever we pass through Salina most of the time, just because it is cheaper and more convenient to buy from there, especially when you can buy in bulk," Hays

High teacher Jennifer Klaus said.

Another cause is the changing spending habits of people. Rather than having disposable income to spend in mall stores, many Americans spend more on essential goods and services with little left over for extra shopping. For instance, according to the U.S. government, statistics show that, on average, Americans spend 18 percent of their income of health and healthcare, when they used to spend only five percent.

In a *New York Times* article, Austan Goolsbee said, "That means that over time, retailers who are selling things will have to run harder and harder just to stay in place," because they must compete for consumers' money.

With people spending their money differently, malls have struggled to adapt to this economy, leading to many flagship mall stores, such as Dillard's, JCPenney Macy's or Sears, downsizing or closing in recent years.

"My wife and I set a very small percentage of our discretionary income aside in our 'zero-based' budget for clothing and/or other 'non-essential' purchases each month," Hays High teacher Silas Hibbs said.

In addition to the increase in online shopping and the changes in people's habits, malls have suffered a huge blow because of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to *TIME* magazine, an estimated 25,000 retail locations will have been forced to close their doors by the year's end due to the virus, and more than half of anchor stores and department stores in malls will cease to exist in the COVID-19 aftermath.

Even the Hays mall, Big Creek Crossing, has not been immune to this. Gordman's, which opened as an anchor store at the north end of the mall in August 2018, liquidated its merchandise and shuttered its doors in May 2020 due to the company declaring Chapter 11 bankruptcy due to COVID-19.

In a *Hays Post* article

from May 16, 2020, Michael Glazer, the president and CEO of Gordman's parent company, Stage Brands, said, "Like many others, our business was significantly impacted by COVID-19. We temporarily closed all of our stores as we have worked to manage through this challenging environment. Despite all of our efforts, we have been unable to obtain the necessary financing to continue operating as an independent business."

While some independent stores in Hays have begun to recover from COVID-19's effects on business, other local retailers have continued to struggle.

Sarah Wasinger, the Hays Chamber of Commerce director, said in a June 29, 2020, *Hays Post* article, "We have heard mixed reviews of comments from our Chamber members. Some of them are experiencing escalated sales right now because people are excited to patronize their businesses again. But we have also heard the other side of the story – that things are a little bit slower because finances of families in general can be tighter right now based on the unemployment levels."

On top of all of that, U.S. consumers are shopping online even more during this holiday season to avoid personal contact with others to decrease their risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19. According Chain Store Age, which monitors retail trends, the e-commerce platform Tophatter reported that Americans planned to buy about 67 percent of their holiday purchases on-

Students utilize 'retail therapy' for relaxation

By Alexandra Coveney
Hays High Guidon

According to CNBC, the Consumer News and Business Channel, American consumers, on average, overspend by \$7,400 a year. The most common categories in which people overspend include grocery shopping, subscription services and online shopping.

According to the *New York Daily News*, more than half of Americans engage in "retail therapy," with 64 percent of women and 40 percent of men using shopping to boost their mood. Among these Americans are students from Hays High.

"I tend to use retail therapy when I have extended time alone," sophomore Celia Brooks said. "Overspending has affected my being able to buy a car because I spend more than I save."

Brooks said she tends to spend \$70 to \$120 each time she shops for a small number of items online.

"Shopping makes me less bored for a little while, then I end up regretting spending a lot of money," Brooks said.

Like Brooks, senior Audrey Rymer also enjoys shopping.

"I shop whenever I feel the need to revamp my style, so, like, every two months," Rymer said. "I thankfully have a mother who supports my shopping needs. She herself is a shopaholic."

Rymer said she

easily spends more than \$200 each time she goes shopping, unless she has a list.

"Shopping definitely relaxes me," Rymer said. "It makes me happy because I get so excited to wear my new things. I love dressing up to go places and do things."

Unlike Rymer, sophomore Rylie Fairbank shops online for various items, not just clothes.

"I like to shop/online shop as a way to de-stress," Fairbank said. "I like to look at different products and plan for birthdays, holidays or just because."

Fairbank said she usually does not buy anything right away, but rather, looks at items and saves those things for later.

"If I do buy something, it is never an impulse decision," Fairbank said. "I normally have it in my cart for a while before I actually buy it. Sometimes, it's just nice to look through Amazon or other sites and just find items I like. It gives me a break from everything for a while."

While retail therapy can improve one's mindset for a short time, there can be serious consequences to overspending.

Business teacher Shaina Prough said she tries to inform her students about what they are doing to their finances when they overspend their budget.

"If a person doesn't have a spending plan, then they have not accounted for how they will spend their money, potentially creating chaos in one's finances," Prough said. "If a person

spends too much on shopping, then they won't have money for necessities."

Prough also provided some advice to shopaholics.

"It's important to learn how to spend every dollar on paper on purpose before the month begins," Prough said. "If you have a tendency to indulge in retail therapy, make sure that you budget funds each month in that category while still funding savings, giving and whatever bills you are responsible for."

Prough said it is okay to spend your money on shopping, as long as you are also covering all of your necessities first.

"It's your money, so you can decide how it's going to be spent each month," Prough said.

Even as a business teacher, Prough said she occasionally overspends, too.

"I do not really enjoy shopping, but there have been times when I have overspent on my kids," Prough said. "Luckily, my husband and I built some wiggle room in our budget so that we were still able to pay all our bills on time and in full."

Prough said that she and her husband have learned to set aside money each month in their budget to pay for gifts for Christmas, birthdays and special occasions so that they do not encounter unplanned surprise costs.

"It's very tempting to shop, but learning to have discipline with your finances will allow you to have peace, which you can't put a price on," Prough said.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Gender stereotypes stifle individuality

Gender stereotypes are harmful. While we recognize the more blatant consequences of gender stereotypes, like workplace discrimination and sexual harassment, we fail to see just how much of a role gender norms play in our daily lives.

Recently, Harry Styles wore a dress on the cover of *Vogue*. This prompted a media frenzy – some championing his choice and others outraged by his outfit. The real question that should be asked, though, is, why does it matter so much? Why is seeing a man wear a dress so shocking?

The answer is gender norms.

According to traditional Western culture, “real” men don’t wear dresses. “Real” men don’t paint their nails or wear makeup.

Society has a history of keeping individuals from wearing what they want.

It took until the mid-20th century for society to decide it was even acceptable for women to wear pants. Now, we do not bat an eye when

we see women wearing pants.

The same should go for men’s fashion choices. How does letting a man wear a dress or heels impact your daily life? It doesn’t.

While there is technically nothing prohibiting men from dressing how they want, negative societal reactions keep those desires at bay.

From birth, we reinforce these norms.

We separate clothes, hair products and styles based on gender; there was even a Bic pen released in 2012 designed “for her.”

It’s ridiculous.

Some may think that even if given the choice, men would still gravitate towards more “manly” fashion choices. That may be the case, but how do we know? We have never even given them the option to do so without consequences.

This, in no way, means we should push men in the opposite direction and degrade those who choose to dress in typical male clothes. There is nothing wrong with wearing a suit or pants,



MEG TAGGART / The Guidon

but we need to realize that there is not anything inherently wrong with men wearing dresses or skirts, either.

“Oh, but then people would do it just for attention!”

If people wearing outfits that go against gender norms garners them more attention, that proves the potency of

those norms.

We should be working towards a society where what you wear does not impact how others perceive you. We are granted freedom of expression, but that is limited when we negatively stereotype those who do not conform to societal norms.

If Harry Styles wearing a dress offends you,

take a step back and ask yourself why. Why does it bother me? Why does seeing a man wear what they want to wear evoke such a strong negative reaction?

Because at the end of the day, it’s a dress. It is a piece of fabric made in a particular style. Nothing harmful. Nothing illegal. Just different.

PRAISES & PROTESTS

PRAISES

- Christmas decorations
- Seeing family
- Turtles
- Christmas cookies
- Candy canes
- Commas
- Turquoise
- End of the semester
- Motivation
- ABBA
- Secret Santa
- Time off from work
- Long drives

PROTESTS

- Finals
- COVID’s effect on travel
- Cold, snowy weather
- People who don’t respond to emails
- Fluorescent lights
- Political flags
- Math tests
- Existential crises
- Emotions

STAFF WISH LIST

- A warm hug
- Time with those I love
- Golf clubs
- Peanut Butter M&Ms
- Beanies
- Shoes
- A long board
- Dark chocolate
- Converse
- Books
- A new car
- Lululemon leggings
- Embroidered Nike clothes
- Arizona green tea
- Flannels
- Gas money
- New iPhone
- An “A” on my English Paper
- A traffic cone
- Doc Martens
- A little lizard
- A little kitten
- HydroFlask
- Sweatshirts
- Spotify Premium
- Sweatpants
- Dinosaurs
- Blender
- Clothes
- Crafts
- A three-piece, hard-back set of luggage
- A croquet set
- Room temperature cheese
- Kitchen-Aide replacement mixer bowl
- Magic Bullet
- Vintage cookbooks
- Thread earrings
- Fender Jaguar Electric Guitar
- Quality time with friends, my boyfriend and my grandma over Zoom
- A 2009 Chevy Avalanche on 27th Street
- Knife set
- PS5

Agree: 10

Opinion
of The Guidon staff

Disagree: 2

Showing gratitude towards others creates positive impact

Appreciating people for what they do is a highly important action. Some people may not show their appreciation, though, and they should know it is really important to do so.

Demonstrating gratitude makes everybody increasingly pleased with the things they do.

According to Harvard Health Publishing, showing gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with people having increased amounts of happiness. Gratitude helps people enjoy their experiences, feel more positive emotions, improve their health, deal with adversity and build strong relationships with other people – exactly the objectives of the district’s “Relationship” goal for accreditation.

Just simple gestures of someone saying they like something you are wearing can have a big impact on someone. When I am feeling down and someone just says, “Nice shirt,” it makes all those previous feelings almost



By Cade Becker
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float away.

While we always hear that it is important to appreciate our teachers, which I agree with, I also think that appreciation from teachers is important, as appreciating their students for their work and giving them compliments can boost students’ moods and self-esteem.

When a teacher tells me that I did well on a test or that my art project looks amazing, this makes me feel like my work was worth the time and effort that I devoted to it. This, in turn, makes me work harder and better.

I am a perfectionist,

and having positive feedback from teachers greatly affects my mood in those classes.

In the “real” world, people are appreciated for their work all the time. These forms of appreciation could be tips, raises, pay and gratitude from customers and co-workers.

The work that students do may not be the hardest, but it still takes us time and effort. Appreciating us and our work will allow us to appreciate the teachers who taught us. Teachers who appreciate their students verbally are teachers who would be the favorites in the student’s mind.

I am currently in Introduction to Metals class with instructor Alex Ford. When I work hard on a newly learned ability, he always has something kind to say. He always is there to help, and if the work is not the greatest, he instructs you on how to improve.

His small gestures of gratitude allow me to have a desire to work harder.

The skills we learn in Intro to Metals are quite tedious and require a great amount of practice. The reassurance of a job done well only motivates me to do better.

When a teacher does not appreciate the students work, it leaves them questioning if they did something right and if they are appreciated.

When I do not get a decent grade on a test or project, I would like to have feedback on how I can improve my next assignment. Getting feedback is a way to show appreciation. When a teacher gives me explanations and feedback on to why I did not score well, it fills the gap of unknown failure.

“Dr. Martin E. P. Seligman, a psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania, tested the impact of various positive psychology interventions on 411 people,” an article from Harvard Health Publishing said. “Each compared with a control assignment of writing about early memories.

When their week’s assignment was to write and personally deliver a letter of gratitude to someone who had never been properly thanked for his or her kindness, participants immediately exhibited a huge increase in happiness scores. This impact was greater than that from any other intervention, with benefits lasting for a month.”

Appreciation is the current theme for this year at Hays High. A poster in the Commons says that we should be appreciative for the school year, be appreciative for being able to see your friends, be appreciative for being able to play sports and be appreciative for being in school.

The theme should not only be instilled in the students’ minds, but also show be exhibited in the actions of the staff members, as the students are what give the teachers their jobs in the first place.

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—First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

WINTER SPORTS

HAYS CITY SHOOTOUT

Indian boys team places first, while girls place fourth

By Brenna Schwien
Hays High Guidon

With cardboard cutouts filling the stands in place of fans, the 38th Annual Gerald Mitchell Hays City Shootout looked quite a bit different this year.

The number of teams was cut from eight to four, which included Hays High, Hugoton, Life Prep Academy and Thomas More Prep.

The Indian boys went 3-0 to start the season, beating Hugoton 77-55, Life Prep 71-39 and TMP 70-42.

“We did good all three games,” senior Jason Krannawitter said. “In the first game, we played sloppy in the third quarter and let Hugoton back in it, but other than that, we were solid on both ends of the floor.”

The Indians were led by Krannawitter, seniors TJ Nunnery and Dalyn Schwartz and juniors Carson Kieffer and Jace Linenberger during the tournament.

“I thought we did good at sharing at the ball and looking to score, and I



BRENNA SCHWIEN /THE GUIDON

Sophomore Carly Lang dribbles the ball down the court with her teammates, senior Re Green and sophomore Morgan Engel, ahead of her. The lady Indians took fourth place in the Hays City Shootout.

thought our defense was solid,” Krannawitter said.

They captured a first-place finish with their three wins and were presented with the trophy after the game against TMP.

The lady Indians went 0-3, falling to Hugoton 47-26, to Life Prep 46-30 and to TMP 44-31.

“I think we did okay,” sophomore Carly Lang, a

second-year varsity player, said. “We got the first games out of the way and know what we need to do to improve.”

Having a tournament early in the season can be a burden or a blessing, but Lang said it is a blessing.

“It helps us look at what we need to improve and also helps the coaches make decisions for future

games,” Lang said.

Sophomore Morgan Engel, who is new to the varsity roster this year, put up a career high of 10 points in her varsity debut against Hugoton.

“I feel like we did really well, especially since we are learning a whole new system compared to last year,” Engel said.

Without having fans,

the atmosphere was different for the athletes, having their fans watching on livestreams on YouTube instead of being in the gym in person.

“I could barely tell we had no fans because we had so much support from our bench, the band and the boys team,” Engel said.

The lady Indians’ offense may not have been a strong suit during the tournament, but their defense was solid.

“I feel like our team did extremely well on the defense side, which is what [coach Len] Melvin wants us to focus on, and I think our effort was amazing,” Engel said. “Some things we need to improve on is valuing the possession on offense and playing with our heads up.”

Engel agreed with Lang that having a tournament so early in the season is beneficial for the team.

“I think having a tournament does benefit us because it shows us what we need to work on for future games and how much we improved throughout the season,” Engel said.

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YOUR VIEW

How did it feel to play without any fans in the stands?

“It has been weird. After [the Hays City Shootout], we got used to not playing in front of fans.”

—senior Jason Krannawitter

“Personally, I haven’t noticed the fans not being at the games as much as you would think.”

—senior Dalyn Schwarz

“The amount of people that were allowed to come made a big difference, along with the cardboard cutouts. The cutouts actually made a bigger difference probably than you think; it actually made it seem like there were people there watching us.”

—junior Jordan Dale

“With the rule of having no fans, I honestly haven’t noticed the difference. In my opinion, it was still loud in the gym due to the band, which helps a lot.”

—junior Ashlynn Flax

“It was hard adjusting to the no fans rule, but after a while, I got used to it. The cardboard cutouts in the stands helped a lot, and with our team and the girls team together, we still get a little bit of noise, so it’s not bad.”

—junior Wesley Oakley

“We haven’t had a game yet, but I feel like it might be a little weird.”

—freshman Jack Weimer

KSHSAA continues to modify winter sports rules

By Cayden Sanders
Hays High Guidon

The Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) had a meeting on Nov. 24 to determine guidelines for the winter sports season in the age of COVID-19.

“We [athletic directors] knew that we couldn’t give up this year’s winter sports after last year’s abrupt stop,” Hays High athletic director Lance Krannawitter said. “We just saw that there was not enough information given to us that we were really protecting our student athletes from the virus if we didn’t allow them to play.”

While there was a motion to begin winter sports only after Winter Break in January, KSHSAA’s Board of Directors voted to allow the winter season to start as planned.

However, the board did pass a suspension of athletic activities, including practices and competitions, starting on Dec. 23. Teams may restart practices on Jan. 4, and games may continue Jan. 8. The board made the decision with the idea that student-athletes would have time to ensure they were negative for COVID-19 when they return to practices and to games after having been at family gatherings for the holidays.

“It’s tough to say what’s right and what’s wrong to do in this situation, but the girls and I are excited that we are getting the chance to play even in this



CAYDEN SANDERS /THE GUIDON

Cardboard photos replace fans in the stands before the Hays City Shootout, as fans were not allowed to attend due to KSHSAA rules. Athletic Booster Club had a fundraiser in which fans could buy a cutout of themselves to put in the stands with limited fans allowed.

odd year,” new girls basketball head coach Len Melvin said.

KSHSAA’s board also passed a motion, 52-23, to have no fans in the stands at any games from Dec. 1 to Jan. 28 to limit the spread of COVID-19 in gyms, which usually garner hundreds of spectators. Then, local districts could decide whether or not to allow fans starting on Jan. 29.

“It sucks to not have the fans in the stadium, but it really gives me and the boys extra motivation to play hard,” boys basketball head coach Alex Hutchins said.

KSHSAA also discussed motions to limit the number of competitions for each sport. One

of the motions was to cut the basketball season from 20 games to 13 games, but that motion did not pass by a vote of 66-6, so the basketball season will remain at a maximum of 20 games, plus any post-season games.

“We don’t care how many games we are going to play,” Hutchins said. “We just want to play and get back to where we were last year and play at the state-level competition again.”

For swimming and diving, teams may have a maximum of 10 competitions, plus the state meet, and for boys and girls wrestling, teams may have a maximum of 18 events, plus regional and state tournaments.

“It is going to be weird not having fans there, but I want to compete and have a wrestling season,” wrestling head coach Heath Meder said. “With everyone worried about wrestling spreading COVID-19, wrestling has been preparing for this moment for a long time. The Hays High wrestling team has been cleaning the mats before and after practice and matches. We also have had to separate the wrestlers into smaller groups to help not spread COVID throughout the whole team.”

Following the Nov. 24 KSHSAA meeting, many people were pleased that the season would start as scheduled, but some, including many

parents, were disappointed that no fans would be allowed at the competitions and petitioned for a change. Due to this, KSHSAA revisited the motion to have no fans in the stands on Dec. 8.

“I think they will overturn the ruling,” senior basketball player Maia Lummus said before the meeting. “I think they are going to overturn it just for the simple reason of having a student-athlete being hurt and having at least one parent there with you.”

At the Dec. 8 meeting, KSHSAA voted to allow up to two parents or guardians per athlete at winter competitions through Jan. 28. However, KSHSAA also gave districts the ability to limit fans, as needed, if their city or county had tighter restrictions on gatherings or high positive cases of COVID-19; at this time, Kansas City-area and Wichita-area schools planned to continue to limit fans.

“We are heading in the right direction, but that doesn’t mean that we are going to be able to travel with fans everywhere, as some counties might not allow us to allow fans in venues that we will play at,” Krannawitter said. “But, we are going into the right direction, and the next time the [KSHSAA] board will meet will be Jan. 28, they will talk again about restrictions for fans or just leave it to the counties and conferences.”

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Do you miss attending sporting events, and why?

“I miss being in the stands chanting at the top of my lungs at home games because of the energy the students have for our teams.”

—senior Miles Keller

“I miss seeing fans in the stands. I am a part of the Dance Team, and without the fans in the stands, it makes dancing not the same since no one is there.”

—senior Cristina Leos

“I miss being able to hear everyone cheering during a game. A quiet game is never fun to play in.”

—senior Maia Lummus

“I miss being in the stands because I loved yelling and getting everyone hype and getting to see everyone’s theme night attire.”

—senior Audrey Rymer

“I am going to miss being in the stands cheering on our teams because it my senior year and getting to be a part of the front row and cheering as loud as I can are key moments I don’t want to miss out on.”

—senior Sierra Smith

“I do miss being in the stands at home basketball games because our student section always creates such a great atmosphere. I am just really missing being a part of it.”

—junior Karson Russell

“I don’t see a change without having fans. The basketball team, as a whole, supports each other, and we don’t need others to help us support each other.”

—junior Noah Weimer

“I do miss being in the stands because I feel like it’s a high school experience of being in the stands, and I am missing out on it right now.”

—sophomore Toby May

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



“I am extremely proud of how hard my team has worked at practice. Everyone is very supportive of one another, which makes practice more fun. We have the opportunity to do something great this year, and I think we will if we trust each other.”

—sophomore Morgan Engel



“Sports are important to me because, no matter what sport you’re doing, it affects your whole life. All of these lessons can be carried to other areas in our lives. Sports make me a better version of myself.”

—sophomore Grayson Walburn

ATHLETICS

FOUR IN FOUR

Indian girls basketball program welcomes fourth new coach in four years

By Cayden Sanders
Hays High Guidon

As winter sports are underway for Hays High, the lady Indians basketball team is welcoming another new coach, Len Melvin, to the program.

After last year’s head coach, Kyle Porter, accepted a teaching and coaching position at Silver Lake in northeast Kansas, Hays High started searching for another coach. For the Indian seniors, Melvin is the fourth coach in four years to lead the girls basketball team.

“In practice, I see an abundant amount of frustration with my seniors of having to deal with new coaches, but I also see a lot of leadership from them, as well as them giving the leadership role we were already expecting of the girls,” Melvin said.

Senior Maia Lummus shared those frustrations.

“I mean, having four coaches in four years as a high school player sucks,



COURTESY PHOTO

New girls basketball head coach Len Melvin watches from the sideline during the Hays City Shootout, where the girls team went 0-3.

and it’s really frustrating,” Lummus said. “But, I believe that coach Melvin is someone that is going to build this program up.”

Another challenge for Melvin has been dealing with avoiding the spread of COVID-19.

“[Athletic direc-

tor] Mr. [Lance] Krawnawitter told me to make sure masks are up and being used, that we are socially distanced and keep players in smaller groups instead of having big team drills,” Melvin said. “From the summer, I knew that we would have had a possi-

bility to having COVID-19 around, and so, it has been hard keeping small groups separate from each other, as I like to have the team together.”

Melvin said he wants to have the girls to play fundamentally sound defense, but to also enjoy the game.

“If the girls and us coaches have good defensive stands, then we will be able to have a shot to contend with any team we play,” Melvin said. “For us as coaches, we just want the girls to have fun and play hard while playing together as a group.”

For the girls, the first competition was the Hays City Shootout from Dec. 3-5, in which it played three home games in what was one of the first high school basketball tournaments of the year in the state.

“The Hays City Shootout [was] a chance for us to see who works well with who, what matchups we need to have dur-

ing the games ahead and what minor imperfections we have during these three games. These first games for us are just to get the new system down in game, buying into a new system and executing with the new system with little time until the bulk of our season still remaining in the second semester.”

Melvin said that he worries about the break that the Kansas State High School Activities Association has mandated from Dec. 23 to Jan. 4.

“During this break, I worry it is going to be hard to get back into the conditioning, as we are going to have two weeks off from school, with two holidays in between,” Melvin said. “I worry that we will be out of shape [and] forget our plays. As a coach, you would like to pick off where you left off in the beginning of the season, so I hope that we can get back into the rhythm smoothly.”

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Girls wrestling participation increases with start of second year

By Brenna Schwien
Hays High Guidon

The girls wrestling program started its second season in program history on Nov. 16, with a higher number of girls wanting to be on the team.

Sophomore Halle Lohmeyer, who started wrestling last year, said she is excited to have more girls participating this year.

“Having a higher number of girls is more beneficial,” Lohmeyer said. “When there are more girls, we have more practice partners and more opportunities to get better. Also, there are more chances for girls to practice with wrestlers at a similar ability as them instead of having to slow down to go at the other

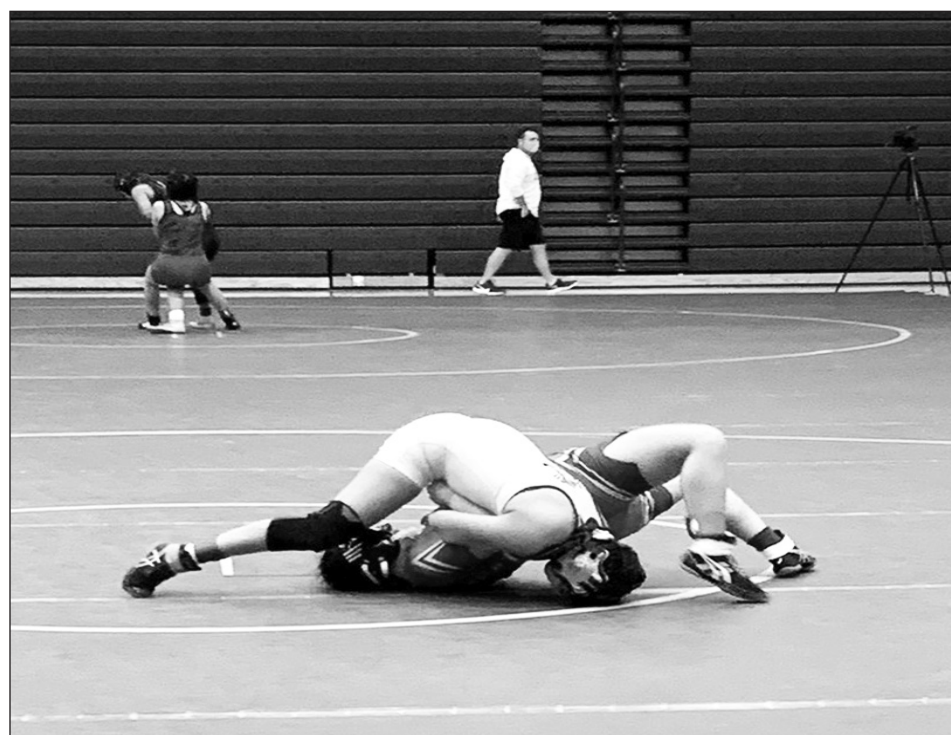
girls’ pace.”

Having more girls also means that most of them were able to learn how the season worked last year and can come into the season this year knowing what to expect.

“I am most excited because, last year, almost all of the girls that wrestled were first-year wrestlers, but this year, almost all of us have experience wrestling, so I think we will be more successful than last year,” Lohmeyer said.

Being prepared for the season means preparing in advance by changing your routines and perfecting your skills.

“I started preparing last summer by going to open rooms whenever I could and practicing stance and motion and moves at home,” Lohmeyer said.



COURTESY PHOTO

In her freshman year, Sarah Zimmerman takes down an opponent during the 2019-2020 season. Zimmerman qualified for the state tournament and then placed sixth at the first girls state wrestling tournament last year.

“Then, in August, I started changing my diet, and in October, I started running and eating healthier.”

Being prepared before the season starts will benefit the team when it gets closer to the end of the season, and when qualifying for regionals and state.

“I think we will have a pretty strong team,” Lohmeyer said. “We will have almost all weight classes filled, and we have a lot more girls who want to work hard this year.”

For freshman Katie Gutierrez, this is her first season of high school wrestling, but she has been wrestling for two years, and she said she is excited for the levels of competition that she will see.

“What I have been doing to become prepared for the season is doing workouts at home and running; that way I’m not so sore after practices,” Gutierrez said.

errez said.

When starting any season, it is important to prepare yourself to be ready to work each practice, which will lead to having a better team overall.

“I think our team will be strong this year because we all work hard at practice,” Gutierrez said.

Sophomore Sarah Zimmerman, who has been wrestling for about 11 years now and who placed at the girls state tournament last year, said she is excited to have more girls this year because it gives the team members a better chance of qualifying for the state tournament.

“It kind of depends on the weight class, because if we have a lot of girls at the same weight, it is pointless,” Zimmerman said. “We are pretty spaced out this year with weights, so it is good that we have almost a full team

of girls.”

With COVID-19 still looming in the background, Zimmerman said she was worried about not even having a season.

“I didn’t prepare as much this year as I did last year because I didn’t even know if we would have a season,” Zimmerman said. “Although, now that we have gotten into a routine of wrestling, I am going on runs and just maintaining my weight.”

Zimmerman said she hopes to return to state this year, with more members of her team.

“I think we have a strong lineup of girls this year, and they fill out almost every weight class,” Zimmerman said. “Like, last year, some of them are new or have only been in it for a year or two so we do have a lot to work on.”

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WINTER SPORTS WRAP UP



Wrestling

Valley Center Inv.
Dec. 4
1st - Sarah Zimmerman
1st - Katie Gutierrez
2nd - Trista Flock
3rd - Sheena Klaus
4th - Lexi Burton
5th - Addison Otte
6th - Kristina Dees

Junction City Inv.
Dec. 5
Hays High vs. Junction City (L)
Score: 54-18

Hays High vs. Shawnee Mission North (W)
Score: 75-6

Hays High vs. K.C. Turner (W)
Score: 49-26



EMMA PFANNENSTIEL / Indian Call

Senior Ethan Flock battles against an opponent during a match from the 2019-2020 season. Flock returned as one of the few seniors on the wrestling team this year.



Girls Basketball



BRENNA SCHWIEN/The Guidon

On Dec. 5, junior Jersey Johnson takes a charge during the game against Thomas More Prep during the Hays City Shootout. The lady Indians lost to the Monarchs, 44-31.

Hays City Shootout
Dec. 3
Hays High vs. Hugoton (L)
Score: 47-26

Dec. 4
Hays High vs. Life Prep (L)
Score: 46-30

Dec. 5
Hays High vs. Thomas More Prep (L)
Score: 44-31



Boys Swimming

Salina South
Dec. 3
Team: Third
100 Breaststroke – 6th - Andrew Prine (1:25.34), 8th - Jude Tippy (1:35.92), 9th - Ashton Bickle (1:39.97)
100 Butterfly – 4th - Dustin Rajewski (1:35.55)
50 Freestyle – 3rd - Grayson Walburn (26.19), 6th - Aidan Debay (28.38), 8th - Andrew Prine (30.12)
100 Freestyle – 5th - Grayson Walburn (1:02.21)
200 Freestyle – 6th - Anthony Arial (2:51.71)
500 Freestyle – 6th - Jude Tippy (7:42.10), 7th - Evan Dealy (8:21.51)
200 Freestyle Relay – 5th - Tyler Solida, Aidan Debay, Keanan Rigler, Grayson Walburn (1:55.35); 7th - Seth Sumaya, Leo Hernandez, Ashton Bickle, Eli Rohr (2:15.75)
400 Freestyle Relay – 5th - Anthony Arial, Evan Dealy, Keanan Rigler, Chris Isbell (4:49.81); 7th - Calvin Moore, Dustin Rajewski, Seth Sumaya, Tyler Solida (5:26.62)
200 Medley Relay – 5th - Grayson Walburn, Anthony Arial, Aidan Debay, Andrew Prine (2:13.65); 7th - Evan Dealy, Jude Tippy, Dustin Rajewski, Leo Hernandez (2:37.78)

Great Bend
Dec. 8
Team: Second
100 Backstroke – 5th - Dustin Rajewski (1:32.53)
100 Breaststroke – 5th - Andrew Prine (1:27.60), 8th - Jude Tippy (1:34.35), 11th - Ashton Bickle (1:42.43)
100 Butterfly – 5th - Dustin Rajewski (1:32.37)
50 Freestyle – 4th - Grayson Walburn (26:06), 7th - Aidan Debey (27.62), 15th - Tyler Solida (32.20)
100 Freestyle – 6th - Grayson Walburn (1:02.96), 7th - Aidan Debey (1:07.07), 9th - Keanan Rigler (1:10.33)
500 Freestyle – 3rd - Jude Tippy (7:28.98), 4th - Evan Dealy (8:04.28)
200 Freestyle Relay – 3rd - Anthony Arial, Aidan Debey, Keanan Rigler, Grayson Walburn (1:51.44); 8th - Ashton Bickle, Leo Hernandez, Eli Rohr, Tyler Solida (2:19.57); 9th - Andrew Prine, Dustin Rajewski, Alex Johnson, Chris Isbell (2:32.82)
400 Freestyle Relay – 4th - Evan Dealy, Chris Isbell, Keanan Rigler, Seth Sumaya (4:58.20)
200 Individual Medley – 3rd - Anthony Arial (3:05.72)
200 Medley Relay – 3rd - Anthony Arial, Andrew Prine, Grayson Walburn, Aidan Debey (2:14.23); 7th - Calvin Moore, Ashton Bickle, Seth Sumaya, Eli Rohr (2:45.60)



Boys Basketball



BRENNA SCHWIEN / The Guidon

Senior TJ Nunnery goes up for a layup during the final game of the 38th Annual Gerald Mitchell Hays City Shootout against Thomas More Prep, which the Indians won, 70-42.

Hays City Shootout
Dec. 3
Hays High vs. Hugoton (W)
Score: 77-55

Dec. 4
Hays High vs. Life Prep (W)
Score: 71-39

Dec. 5
Hays High vs. Thomas More Prep (W)
Score: 70-42

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Holiday Cheer

Decorating earlier for the holidays could benefit individuals’ moods

By McKena McBride
Hays High Guidon

In the months before the end of the year, it is a well-known saying that people can obtain the ‘Christmas Spirit,’ meaning they are excited for the holidays. Sophomore Keiarra Gonzales said she feels grateful around the holidays.

“I feel happier around Christmastime because it’s one of those times where I find myself getting closer with my friends and family,” Gonzales said. “I also find more time for myself as Christmas break comes.”

While some believe you should not start celebrating the holidays too early, others think it is never too early to decorate their homes.

An article on *www.good-housekeeping.com* discussed holiday decorations and stated that earlier holiday decorating can have psychological benefits.

Psychotherapist and director of The Counseling & Psychotherapy Center, Heather Garbutt, spoke about the positive aspects of decorating early in the article.

“Inviting festive cheer into your home early by putting Christmas decorations up could create a longer-lasting feeling of goodwill and subtly lift your mood by adding sparkle to an otherwise normal environment,” Garbutt said. “Doing your favorite Christmas things earlier will remind you of the simple joys and pleasures of being human.”

Many students put holiday decorations up fairly early.

“We started decorating the day after Thanksgiving this year,” junior Karson Russell said. “It just engaged the Christmas spirit, I guess.”

Senior Daisy Tinoco said her family decorated the day after Thanksgiving as well, and it brought up various emotions.

“It made me feel happy, but, at the same time, sad because the year is almost over,” Tinoco said.

While most students decorated right after Thanksgiving, others waited until December.

“My family decorated on the first day of December, and it made me feel happy knowing that I’ll be getting to spend more time with my family as we decorate together,” Gonzales said.

Some students said that decorating earlier helped to combat some of the negative feelings that COVID-19 has brought this year, including being disappointed because of having to change their holiday plans.

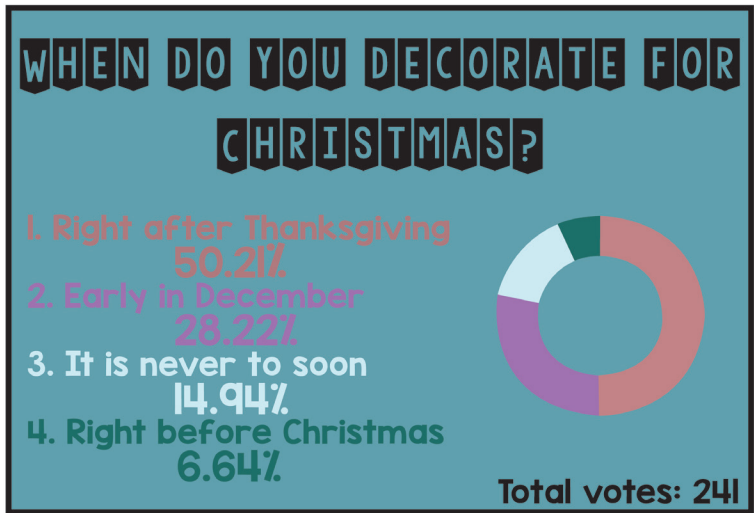
“Normally, we see family during Christmas, but will not because of COVID,” Russell said.

Gonzales said that COVID-19 has not affected her Christmas plans this year since her family usually does not travel outside of the local area for the holidays.

“But, I still feel grateful and happy to be spending time with my family,” Gonzales said.

Despite the downsides, students seem to be looking on the bright side for the holidays.

“Despite COVID concerns, I’m still looking forward to the holidays this year,” Russell said.



GRANT TESLUK / The Guidon

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Popular holiday songs have various backgrounds, meanings

By Emry Lundy
Hays High Guidon

The holiday season is filled with all kinds of cheer, with Christmas songs blaring from businesses as the weather grows colder and the end of the year approaches. However, just because many people know the songs themselves, their true meanings and the circumstances in which they were written can be concealed or forgotten.

One such song is “White Christmas” by Irving Berlin, which he originally wrote for a Broadway musical that never came to fruition. Berlin was Jewish, and therefore, did not celebrate Christmas, but he had a different inspiration for the song. According to *Country Living* magazine, his son had passed away when he was only three weeks old on Christmas Day in 1928, and Berlin and his wife had made a tradition of visiting the boy’s grave each year. On top of that, this best-selling single was first released by Bing Crosby not long after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Another famous song began not as a song, but as a children’s book. “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” was written by Robert L. May as a way to please his young daughter, Barbara, according to *TIME* magazine. Barbara’s mother, Evelyn, was nearing the end of a war with cancer, and it did not seem as though she would come out victorious. May drew on his own past, one full of many feelings of not belonging, to spin a tale of magic and joy. His daughter adored the story so much that May eventually turned the story into a picture book to give to her since he could not afford a Christmas present for the girl. May’s brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, wrote the lyrics to the song that we all know today.

“I’ll Be Home for Christmas,” written by Walter Kent and James Gannon in 1943, was created as a way to unite the families that were physically unable to gather together for the holidays because of World War II, according to “The Odyssey Online.” Soldiers across

the sea were unable to come home to be with their families, so the song provided some semblance of comfort around the holidays.

“Winter Wonderland” also has a tragic backstory. According to *House Beautiful* magazine, Richard Smith wrote the lyrics while in the West Mountain Sanitarium in Pennsylvania, being treated for tuberculosis. The song was a way for him to reminisce about his childhood when he could let his worries blow away like snowflakes.

Some songs, even if not intended, seem to have hidden meanings. On such is “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” by Frank Loesser.

“I always thought that ‘Baby, It’s Cold Outside’ was such an innocent song when I was young, but when you stop and read the lyrics, it kind of hits like the beginning of an episode of ‘NCIS’ or ‘Criminal Minds,’” junior Stanna Flinn said.

Music teacher Alex Underwood agreed with Flinn’s thoughts. “You could track the sexism and general problematic language for quite a few secular Christmas songs,” Underwood said. “‘Baby, It’s Cold Outside’ has been criticized quite a lot. There are plenty others that are eyebrow-raising.”

Other songs did not even initially relate to Christmas. James Lord Pierpont wrote “Jingle Bells” as, not a Christmas song, but one for Thanksgiving. “Carol of the Bells” began as a Ukrainian chant named “Shchedryk.” The chant told the story of a little swallow flying into a person’s home to tell them of the good fortune spring would bring. The chant was heard by Peter Wilhousky, who then turned the melody to the popular song.

Even through the unimaginable struggles that many of these artists had to face, they were able to make the best of the not-so-pleasant times and give us all something wonderful to enjoy for the holidays. We should all learn from these brilliant creators and make the most of our time with those we love, even if the circumstances of this Christmas are not exactly what we may have imagined.

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‘Scythe’ proves that people should not judge a book by its cover

By Rylie Fairbank
Hays High Guidon

I know you’re never supposed to judge a book by its cover, but I do... I know, I’m a terrible person, but I believe that the cover of a book is a little preview.

I did judge “Scythe” by Neal Shusterman by its cover. However, I was very, very wrong.

“Scythe” tells the story of a world in which no one dies naturally and everyone lives forever – unless “gleaned,” or killed, by a scythe, who control the population. While some are remorseful of their position, others enjoy their work.

Scythes also choose apprentices to maintain the number of scythes, to replace themselves and to have a child, but some do it for other reasons entirely.

In the book, Scythe Faraday has chosen two apprentices in Citra Terranova and Rowan Damisch, but choosing two apprentices has never been done before.

The scythes meet three times a year to discuss gleanings, limits, methods, numbers and records, and during the first conclave, the scythes find out that Faraday has taken two apprentices, but that he only plans to have only one ordained into a scythe and have the other return home. But, the scythes have other ideas, like putting Citra and Rowan to a test in which the winning apprentice will become a scythe whose first act will be to glean the losing apprentice.

Citra and Rowan hate that one would have to kill the other, and so Faraday gleanes himself

to save them because, when a Scythe self-gleans, the apprentice is free. While Citra and Rowan should be set free, they are taken by the other scythes.

Scythe Goddard, who is arrogant, rude and selfish and who also *enjoys* mass gleanings, takes Rowan as his apprentice, while Scythe Curie, one of the most respected scythes, takes Citra to teach her kindness.

Under the training of Goddard and Curie, Rowan and Citra meet again at the Harvest conclave, where they are forced to fight. However, not wanting to win, Rowan throws the fight. Seeing what he is doing, Citra won’t let him throw the game. They both end up losing, and it is left to Winter conclave to see who will advance.

But, before that happens, Citra is charged with Scythe Faraday’s murder. The whole thing, set up by Goddard, is an attempt to eliminate Citra so Rowan would become a Scythe. Before Citra is taken, Curie helps her escape while Curie fixes the mess. Then they return in time for the Winter conclave.

Rowan and Citra both pass their final test, and each makes a plan for if they are chosen and how they will defy the order to kill the other. But, only one scythe is chosen...

“Scythe” is the most plot-twisting, page-turning, hooked-from-the-first-chapter book you will read. Even if I judged it prematurely, I definitely plan on continuing the series and reading more of Shusterman’s books.

lol The Haha’s

Q: What do you call Santa when he stops moving?
A: Santa Pause.

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
A: Snowflakes.

Q: Why do mummies like Christmas so much?
A: Because of all the wrapping.

Q: What does an elf study in school?
A: The elfabet.

Q: What do snowmen take when the sun gets too hot?
A: A chill pill.

Q: Where does a snowman keep his money?
A: In a snow bank.

Q: What do you call a greedy elf?
A: Elfish.

Q: What falls but never gets hurt?
A: Snow.

Top Picks

1. “Last Christmas”
–Wham!
2. “Mele Kalikimaka”
–Rober Alexander Anderson
3. “All I Want For Christmas Is You”
–Mariah Carey
4. “Jingle Bell Rock”
–Bobby Hems
5. “Mistletoe”
–Justin Beiber
6. “Santa Tell Me”
–Ariana Grande
7. “Undereath The Tree”
–Kelly Clarkson
8. “Silent Night”
–Celtic Woman
9. “Snowman”
–Sia
10. “You’re A Mean One Mr. Grinch”
–Tyler, the Creator

New Movies

- Dec. 2
– “The Prom”
- Dec. 9
– “The Midnight Sky”
- Dec. 16
– “Wonder Woman 1984”
- Dec. 17
– “Breach”
- Dec. 25
– “Soul”
– “New of the World”