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Issue 1

The Guidon

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Cover by Ryan Schuckman; photos by Cade Becker, Jessica Feyerherm and Nikka Vuong; photos courtesy of Ryan Brungardt and Jaren Kanak

ORGANIZATIONS

Drama Club restarts after two-year hiatus

By Ryan Schuckman
22rschuckman@usd489.com

Last active during the 2018-2019 school year, Drama Club has started holding meetings again every Wednesday in the library with new members and fresh ideas.

Many events Drama Club plans to hold will take place outside of school hours and in the surrounding community instead of at school.

"We're going to start the year by doing a fundraiser," sophomore Brooks Baczkowski said. "It's going to be an escape room that we'll run. After that, we are going to work with a couple different groups to run the Hays Haunted House on The Bricks and a haunted corn maze in Ellis."

In addition to sponsoring events, Drama Club will participate in performances during second semester. According to Baczkowski, rehearsing for performances will likely take place during the students' free time rather than during meetings.

"We are going to be doing a one act play that we're going to take to competition," Baczkowski said. "Along with that, we're going to be doing an exhibit with the Hays Arts Council where we will be doing what we call 'living art.' [We will] recite or perform a work that we think fits with a local artist's piece."

The club aims to attract students interested in all areas of performing arts and competitive speaking, such as debate, forensics and theatre.

"So, on one end, we have debate competition," Baczkowski said. "That ties into forensics, which is also competitive speaking. You could even be reciting works, poems, that sort of thing. Further along on the creative scale is Drama Club – it's more about performance art."

Drama Club will also be another option for students involved with theatre.

"I think it is an excellent fit for that group," Baczkowski said. "During this time, they tend to be pretty busy, given



Photo by Ariel Neuburger (Indian Call)

PLANNING TIME

On Sept. 1, Drama Club sponsor Jennifer Rajewski and sophomore Brooks Baczkowski write ideas on the whiteboard during a Drama Club meeting.

the musical. Later in the year, they certainly have a place with us."

Students interested in joining Drama Club can attend one of the meetings or contact the sponsor Jennifer Rajewski.

"We want to become skilled performers and learn how to work in performance art," Baczkowski said.

Two students set to start new Astronomy Club

By Madighan Norris
24mnorris@usd489.com

A new school year calls for students to get back into organizations they enjoy, and if those do not exist, they have the opportunity to create those clubs with administrative approval.

Sophomores Beth Bowles and Lacey Droegemeier created an Astronomy Club, which the administration has already approved.

According to the dictionary, astronomy is "the study of celestial objects, space, the universe and anything outside of Earth's solar system."

The two founders said they are trying to find a convenient date to have the first meeting.

"We are looking to find an open date when many students will be in school," Bowles said. "We are working on finding a day to really jumpstart our club. Availability of rooms is another factor we must take in."

Bowles and Droegemeier asked science instructor Cheryl Shepherd-Adams to sponsor the club. Shepherd-Adams currently includes an astronomy unit in her Integrated Science classes, which was one of the many things that inspired the club to be created.

Astronomy Club plans to focus on learning

more about the stars and the solar system and to host activities, such as mapping the stars, observing solar activities, like meteor showers, eclipses, special moons, etc., and having a "star party" on nice nights. Also, the club will be travelling to Fort Hays State University to use their high-powered telescope.

"Students should join simply because we get to learn more about outer space," Droegemeier said. "We are also looking to make a little 'family' out of this club."

Both creators are passionate about space, and they want others to be, too.

"My curiosity of space made me really want to start the club," Droegemeier said. "I have always had a fascination with outer space, and one day, I just thought, 'Our school doesn't have an Astronomy Club, so we should make one.'"

Bowles agreed that she wanted to learn more about space and to share that with others.

"What initially made me want to start this club was wanting to know more about space," Bowles said. "I feel as if there is much more to learn and explore than what you are told in a classroom. So, I decided it'd be a good idea to also help other students learn more about the stars, too."

CHANGES

New administration sets new policies

Administrators change cell phone and dress code policies, add point system

By Cade Becker

23cbecker@usd489.com

Along with two new administrators, came changed policies, which have had an impact on student life at Hays High School.

One of the biggest changes is the revised cell phone policy. While in previous years, students' cell phones were not supposed to be used during school hours, phones can now be used during lunch, during passing periods and in some classroom situations that may require use of a device.

"I think that the new policies are really beneficial," junior Liam Gatschet said. "They are beneficial because the students are allowed to be on their phones more, and the teachers do not have to worry about finding students on their phone."

The revised cell phone policy is included in a new poster that shows the level of use of electronic devices. On these posters, which are in every classroom, there are two columns – School Issued Electronic Devices and Personal Electronic Devices. Below these two columns are a green, yellow and red bar that determines the level of use of these types of electronics.

The green bar means that students can use their devices freely. The yellow bar allows students to be on their device with some limitations, such as a teacher asking to use them for a specific purpose. Last, the red column means that the devices should not be used at all.

"We started to really talk about what the language of cell phones are," new principal Shawn Henderson said. "This is so that students know when they can use them and when they



Photo by Cade Becker

MORE FREEDOM

During his lunch period, junior Cyrus Vajnar checks his phone on Sept. 29. Under the new cell phone policy, students can use their phones during lunch times, during passing periods and in some class situations.

cannot use them. We just treat them like they can handle that, so that the students have some autonomy but also know the expectations."

Another change is a point system, which is a way of putting a score to violations of the Student Handbook and of allowing administrators to track a student's troubles and determine fair consequences.

The point system works in severity; the more severe of a violation, the more points and vice versa. In this system, a student can only accumulate 20 points. Points do stack, so if a student commits multiple one- or two-point infractions, he can get into trouble with the total points he has.

With the more points that a student accumulates, the result could end in a warning from the administration, a parent contact, detentions, in-school or out-of-school suspensions (ISS or OSS), removal from a class or an activity, the use of law enforcement or other consequences.

Only the administrators know the amount of points a student will have; not even teachers are aware of a student's points.

One other significant change includes the new dress code policies. Under these guidelines, shirts must come to at least the belt line so that midriffs are not visible, shirts must have wide straps or sleeves and shirts cannot have cut-out sides or sleeves, in addition to some of the previous rules. Dress code violations are also worth points.

"I think that the new changes are reasonable," freshman Keira Gray said. "The point system lets people learn from their consequences."

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CONSTRUCTION

Industrial Technology Department sees changes for this school year

By Cade Becker
23cbecker@usd489.com

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Industrial Technology Department once again made improvements, featuring new machines and other small renovations.

Most noticeable of the improvements are within the drafting room (Room 508) and the old audio/visual room (Room 509).

Rooms 508 and 509 were joined by a door that connects from the southeast wall of Room 508 to Room 509. This allowed the drafting rooms to expand and to add new machines, including a 3-D printer that has carbon fiber capabilities and an Epilog laser printer/engraver.

"We added a classroom over there, as well as a lab," industrial technology teacher Alex Ford said. "The lab has a new 3-D printer. It also has our screen-printing equipment, other 3-D printing

machines and our new laser printer/engraver. That is a nice addition to have so we can classes in there in the future."

The 3-D printer will allow students in Hays High Industrial Technology Association (HHITA) to create parts for their electric cars and expand the capabilities of the department in general. The laser printer will allow people to create engravings, models, puzzles or anything that can go along with a 2-D surface. It has capabilities to engrave pictures onto the accepted materials.

"I like the new rooms," senior Dustin Rajewski said. "This helps give HHITA a space to work since it is tedious to move the cars. I hope that the new equipment gets more kids to join the program."

The team of retired industrial technology teacher Chris Dinkel and current teacher Alex Ford improved this part of the building.



Photo by Cade Becker

NEW WORKSPACE

At an HHITA work night on Sept. 28, freshman Jayten Wickham and senior Taylan Younger inspect the electric car while it sets on a new table.

"I think the project went well," Ford said. "Before, we were just limited to a CAD lab [Room 508] and now with the 509 addition, it opened up a lot more opportunities."

Main office area undergoes construction to allow for better function

By Emry Lundy
22elundy@usd489.com

The start of a new school year and shift in two administrators has brought many changes to Hays High for the 2021-2022 school year. One such change has been the layout of the office.

"I have always felt, when I came in this building, that the front of the office was the back, and the back was the front," Henderson said.

Henderson moved the offices of administration to the back hall in the office to establish more privacy and distance from the noise and people that are in and out of the front "public" areas.

Henderson also explained that the purpose of the shift was "privacy, dignity and respect." Henderson said that moving the offices gave them more privacy, which increased the dignity and respect in more sensitive discussions in those offices.

"We also wanted to come up with a couple of places where students who need a minute, or maybe they're having a hard time, could have a place that's calm," Henderson said.

These additional quiet, private spaces do not eliminate the opportunities of a break space in the counselors' offices, but instead offer more locations.

With the new arrangement, all the administrators are in a row along the back hall along with the Maroon Conference Room. The teacher workroom has taken the place of former principal Martin Straub's office, and the Gold Conference Room has replaced previous assistant principal John Linn's office. The office of inventory secretary Laura Jensen's office is now in what was assistant principal Fred Winter's office. The receptionist area, the health office and the counseling office remain the same.

"I think that there's been quite a few comments about the fact that it is really working very well," Henderson said.

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NEW FACES

Veteran teacher begins role as new leader for Guided Personal Study at Hays High

By Ryan Schuckman
22rschuckman@usd489.com

At the beginning of each year, freshmen and new students enter the unfamiliar environment of Hays High. Likewise, for new staff, the same adjustments must be made.

Guided Personal Study (GPS) lead teacher Donna Ward is one of the new Hays High instructors.

Ward has taught in many western Kansas schools, including Norton, Colby and Atwood, so working with students is nothing foreign to her. Additionally, she coached golf for eight years and volleyball for 33 years, including coaching volleyball last year and this year at Hays Middle School.

"I have been around education my whole life," Ward said. "My dad was a high school math teacher, and my mom was a school cook."

This fall, she has taken on the GPS lead role, which became available after long-time instructor Myrna LeCount retired last spring.

In addition to wanting to make a difference in students' lives, one of the reasons she chose to teach at Hays High was "to stay involved with the athletes I've coached."

"[I] absolutely love high school age students, and Hays High was the best fit," Ward said.

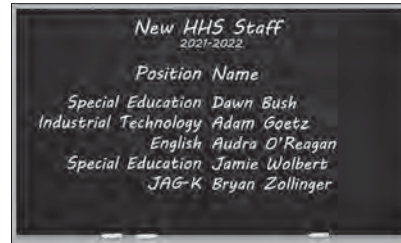
Ward entered Hays High with a few goals in mind, many that reflect the school's theme of "Connect."

"[I am] looking forward to getting to know the

students and staff, creating a learning environment in GPS, developing 'trust' with the students [and] connecting with each student," Ward said.

Ward, who attended high school during her freshman year at Bremerhaven High School in Germany, is used to change. As a result, transitioning to a new school has not been too difficult.

"An 'education' was always of high importance, and [I] know that it is the great 'equalizer' if we so choose to get it," Ward said.



Infographic by Ryan Schuckman

Three exchange students join student body

By Jessica Feyerherm
24jfeyerherm@usd489.com

As the semester started, Hays High welcomed three foreign exchange students, including junior Maha El Abbassi, junior Ludivine Herbert and junior Emilie Skov, who all come from European countries.

El Abbassi is from Zurich, Switzerland. One substantial difference she has noticed is size. Compared to Hays, which has a population of about 21,000 people, her hometown has a population of more than 400,000 people.

Nevertheless, she said she is enjoying her time at Hays High.

"The school here is way more fun than there [in Switzerland]," El Abbassi said.

Herbert is from France. Instead of a large city, she is from a smaller town called Chavagnnes-

les-Redoux, which has a total population of about 800 people.

The main difference that Herbert noticed was that her school in France was much more difficult, but the teachers at Hays High are more accommodating.

"We can have more fun [here], and the teachers are here help us, and if you don't understand, you can ask them, and they are here really to help you," Herbert said.

Finally, Skov is from Horsens, Denmark. She enjoys the nice people in Kansas, but she misses her family and friends back home.

Like Herbert's French school, Skov's Dutch school does not offer any sports. So, she participates in tennis here at Hays High. Skov said she wishes to return to Hays after her exchange year to visit people.

"The people are definitely way sweeter here," Skov said.

BEING THE BOSS

Despite her young age, senior Reece Leiker already owns two businesses, Pure Roots & Fancy That Boutique

By Nikka Vuong
22nvuong@usd489.com

Many students at Hays High School have entrepreneurial goals. For senior Reece Leiker, she has been able to make these goals come true by creating her own non-profit business, Pure Roots, and her retail business, Fancy That Boutique.

"My very first business was a non-profit called Pure Roots," Leiker said. "It all started with a question my parents asked me, 'What could you do to make an impact?' Our first goal was to raise \$26,000 in one year to build five homes for the extreme poor in Nicaragua through selling homemade laundry detergent. This was my first real taste of business and what it took to build a brand. We ended up raising \$26,000 in seven months and created a bigger goal after that one to build 20 homes, which costs \$104,000. We accomplished that goal in the last two years and moved on to a different project, providing people with clean water for life. Since we set that goal in October of 2020, we have raised enough to provide over 300 people with access to clean water for life."

In September 2019, Leiker decided to open Fancy That Boutique in downtown Hays.

"The retail location I co-

opened with my family, Fancy That Boutique, remains active," Leiker said. "When COVID hit, we eliminated in-store hours, but it continues its online presence. We sell journals, jewelry, games, Pure Roots detergent and are getting ready to re-open the doors. I look forward to getting back to doing one-on-one makeup trainings with clients, hosting in-person classes and doing looks for special occasions again soon. This location is my primary focus in my current business ventures."

Once Leiker graduates, she plans to attend Hays Academy of Hair and Design to get her cosmetology license.

"From there, I have plans in motion to begin my own brand," Leiker said. "I would like to fully own Fancy That Boutique and build it a steady income stream. With the money coming in, I plan to build a house paid for in cash. After that, I would like my income streams to not need me so I can focus on creating a family of my own. The main reason I love entrepreneurship is time freedom — and my long-term goals are structured around that aspect."

Leiker says her motivation is her passion towards her projects and products.

"There is rarely a day that goes by where I don't want to open the boutique and help others shop," Leiker said. "I can tell that I also must be passionate about the cause or product as well; otherwise, I lack the motivation to keep working. If you have an idea for a viable business, and it's something you're passionate about, run with it. Get the necessary training, find mentors that encourage you, learn the skills necessary for the field, get really good at people skills, limit the amount of debt you go into and know who you are. I'm sure the last point seems odd, but you will have people try to tell you how to run your brand, and their advice could put you in a worse position in the long run. Dreams are achievable only if you work for it and don't lose yourself in the process."



Photos by Nikka Vuong

RETAIL SHOP

In her store, Fancy That Boutique, at 115 E. Eighth St., senior Reece Leiker checks inventory of jewelry. While the boutique has a storefront, Leiker encourages buyers to use the website www.fancythat-boutique.com.

STARTING A BUSINESS

To start a business, entrepreneurs must follow multiple steps to ensure the establishment is legal

By Brooks Baczkowski & Meg Taggart
24bbaczkowski@usd489.com and 23mtaggart@usd489.com

Every day, someone has a great idea for a business the likes of which the world has never seen.

"I think there's great opportunity for young people that are willing to work hard," DECA sponsor Shaina Prough said. "An important thing would be to do your research to see if there is a need for the goods or services that you are wanting to provide because, if someone else is already doing what you're planning, then there isn't a need for your business."

Once a prospective owner figures out the premise and has a plan for operations, he needs to secure a sizeable bit of capital from investors.

"You need to make sure that you have enough start-up capital and to make sure that you have enough money in reserves in case you don't turn a profit for a while, so you can keep your doors open," Prough said. "I think a lot of people make the mistake of, they have a great idea, they find a place, they start their business, but they don't have cash, and that can't be sustainable until they start turning a profit, so they have to close their doors."

After determining how to finance the business, it is time to take care of the legal side of the business.

To begin, a person needs to choose the type of business. While there are many options, a Limited Liability Company (LLC) is a common choice because it gives the owner full control over the business, but makes it an entity legally separate from the owner.

"Limited Liability Corporation protects you a little bit as far as protecting the business owner's

personal assets," Prough said. "So, if I was someone who worked in construction, and let's say that I don't have an LLC, if I go to a worksite and someone gets hurt or a customer is not happy with my product, they could come back against my personal assets and recover those versus if I set up as an LLC, where I have more protection against that."

To register an LLC, the owner needs to choose a name. The site www.kansas.gov/businesscenter/index.html has a name availability database to aid in this.

Next, a resident agent must be chosen. This is someone who accepts legal and tax documents for the company. Then, an LAO, or a "Kansas Series Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization," must be filed for a \$165 filing fee in Kansas.

Then, while it is not required, it is strongly advised that an operating agreement is created. An operating agreement is a legal document that explains how a business operates. There are many free templates available, or it can be created with only a guide.

Lastly, an Employer Identification Number must be registered for from the Internal Revenue Service, allowing a company bank account to be opened, business taxes to be filed and more.

At last, an LLC has been created. Some additional licenses or permits may need to be filed. Accountants and attorneys are also important resources to take advantage of as the business continues on its way.

"There's just so much to do when starting a business," Prough said. "I would go talk to your banker or attorney or meet with the Small Business Administration at Fort Hays [State University]; they will all help you get on the right path."

1. Decide on a type of company
2. Decide on a company name
3. Designate a resident agent
4. File for an LAO
5. Create an operating agreement
6. Register for an EIN

Praises

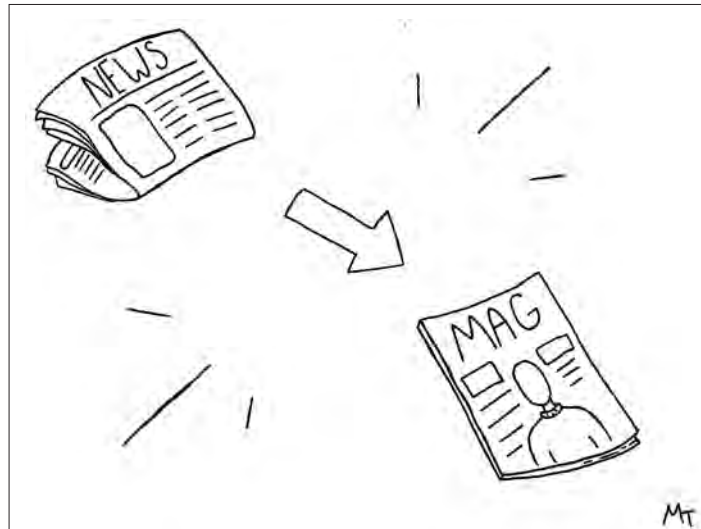
- Etsy
- Soup
- Adele
- Spotify
- Fall Sports
- Punctuation
- Organization
- Homecoming
- Scary movies
- Jacket weather
- Sour Patch Kids
- Halloween costumes
- Comfort color T-shirts

Protests

- Milk
- Essays
- Bookmarks
- Jump Scares
- Loud chewing
- Busy schedules
- Low phone batteries
- Coming up with titles

Playlist

- Brooks Backowski**
"Trademark USA"
by Baby Keem
- Cade Becker**
"Heading South"
by Zac Brown Band
- Alexandra Coveney**
"This Love"
by Maroon Five
- Jessica Feyerherm**
"Airplanes"
by B.o.B.
- Eric Lucio**
"Come to Life"
by Kanye West
- Emry Lundy**
"Your Bones"
by Of Monsters and Men
- Corey Musil**
"Go Flex"
by Post Malone
- Madighan Norris**
"Biking"
by Frank Ocean
- Ryan Schuckman**
"Head Up"
by The Score
- Brenna Schwien**
"see you later (ten years)"
by Jenna Raine
- Meg Taggart**
"Weekend"
by Mac Miller
- Nikka Vuong**
"NDA"
by Billie Eilish
- Jessica Augustine**
"Last One Standing"
by Skylar Grey, Polo G,
Mozzy & Emimem



Cartoon by Meg Taggart

New school year brings changes, including switch to newsmagazine

With the start of the school year, we have already encountered multiple changes – from the new parking lot design to different Student Handbook policies to new administrators to a changed student newspaper – all of which we find to be positive in nature.

One improvement that we saw upon approaching Hays High in August was the student parking lot. In contrast to the straight stalls that allowed drivers to “pull forward,” but also caused numerous accidents, the new parking lot offers slanted parking spaces and better traffic flow, making it easier for students to park, as well as to leave the school.

Other significant changes can be found in the handbook, including the electronic device policy, the dress code and the point system. First, whereas students could not use cell phones during school in past years, the policy has been relaxed. Students can now use cell phones during lunch (which is five minutes longer, too) and passing periods, plus during some class situations. A new “stoplight” chart makes it clear when students can and cannot use their phones during class.

Also, the dress code has been modified with the goal of providing a college, career and workplace ready environment, where students learn to dress in a manner that supports their learning experiences. Some items have been added to the code, including not allowing cut-out shirts and requiring wide straps or sleeves on shirts, which makes the dress code more fair to all students.

Third, a 20-point system has been added to track student behavior and to make consequences more fair in disciplinary situations. Since neither other students nor even teachers know a student’s number of points, it ensures there is privacy.

One last notable change is literally in your hands now. *The Guidon* has been an active publication since 1936, to our best knowledge, but it has always been a “newspaper” format. With so many other changes to Hays High, *The Guidon* staff felt like it was also time for a change, and so, we are proud to introduce our newsmagazine format. We hope that you enjoy our publication, and we encourage you to submit feedback. We would like to thank our instructor for making our vision come true, as well as Northwestern Printers, Inc. for allowing us to print locally in Hays.

With all these changes, we hope that your school year has started well and that, through all of the changes, you continue to have a great year at Hays High.

Opinion of the Guidon Staff

Agree: 12

Disagree: 0

The Guidon Staff

- Editors-in-Chief**
Brenna Schwien
Nikka Vuong
- Copy Editor**
Emry Lundy
- Design/Multimedia Editor**
Ryan Schuckman
- Managing/Photography Editor**
Meg Taggart
- News Editor**
Cade Becker
- Features/Entertainment Editor**
Alexandra Coveney
- Sports Editor**
Corey Musil
- Staff Members**
Brooks Baczowski
Jessica Feyerherm
Eric Lucio
Madighan Norris
- Faculty Adviser**
Jessica Augustine

Information/Policies

The Guidon print edition is published seven times a year by the Digital Media Design and Production class at Hays High School in Hays, Kan., and it is printed by Northwestern Printers in Hays, Kan.

The Guidon is a student-produced newsmagazine published to inform and entertain the Hays High community, to record the history of the school and to serve as an educational tool for journalism students. Under the supervision of a faculty adviser, journalism students have the opportunities to inform, investigate, entertain, interpret and evaluate in an open forum – all accepted functions of the traditional free press – and have the responsibilities to provide accurate, fair, objective and truthful coverage. Should unintentional errors in content be made, they will be retracted in the next issue of the school year.

The views expressed here are those of *The Guidon* staff and do not express the opinions of the USD 489 Board of Education, administration, faculty or staff. Advertisements must meet content, deadline and size requirements, and acceptance does not constitute an endorsement from the student staff or by the school district.

The staff welcomes letters to the editor, as long as they are not libelous, an invasion of privacy, obscene or copyright protected. Letters must be signed and must include the writer’s name, address and phone number.

The Guidon print edition earned the Kansas Scholastic Press Association All-Kansas Award in 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2021; received the National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Award in 2009; was an NSPA Pacemaker Finalist in 2009 and 2011; and received the NSPA First Class Award in 2012, 2018 and 2021. *The Guidon* online edition earned the KSPA All-Kansas Award in 2017 and 2018 and was an NSPA Pacemaker Finalist in 2019.

Other policy information is available upon request by contacting jaugustine@usd489.com.

Contact Us

Hays High School Guidon Newsmagazine
2300 E. 13th St., Hays, Kan., 67601
785-623-2600
jaugustine@usd489.com (Adviser)
22bschwien@usd489.com (Editor-in-Chief)
22nvuong@usd489.com (Editor-in-Chief)
www.hayshighguidon.com

Storytime with Emry

Final book of fantasy trilogy allows reader to see characters change

The cold waves of Wilson Lake lapped over my feet and ankles, and the steady white noise of the water transported me to Sturmhold's engineering masterpiece of a ship. The sun rose higher, leading me across the fearsome Fold to the ravaged Ravka and further into Alina Starkov's fantastical story. I surpassed Leigh Bardugo's "Siege and Storm" on that rocky beach and moved on to the final book of the trilogy, "Ruin and Rising."

The series starts with the book "Shadow and Bone" and follows a young orphan girl named Alina, her friend and crush since childhood, Mal Oretsev, and the powerful Darkling.

In the first book, an intricate system of governments and magic is introduced. Readers get to see Alina shoot from lonely orphan mapmaker to powerful Sun Summoner, her power transforming her into the rumored savior of Ravka. Alina's ability grants her a place among the best

of the best, magic users - Grisha - that can manipulate the air, water and wind, alter materials to create incredible innovations and powerful weapons or even slow a person's heart.

But, the gilded city of Os Alta and the Little Palace where she stays isn't as incredible as it first seems.

Soon, Alina realizes that odd looks, annoying rumors and grueling teachers are the least of her problems.

Throughout the series, she must combat traitors, attempts on her life and an all-consuming desire to find a set of powerful objects that

will enhance her power and allow her to defeat the darkness and evil seeping closer and closer to the heart of Ravka.

The book's events take Alina and Mal from the lavish halls of the Little Palace to a town to lie low in and hide from those wishing to abuse her power across the Fold, a place of horrifying, flesh-eating beasts.

Soon, she finds herself and Mal thrown back into an adventure, this time on the ship of a well-known privateer, Sturmhold. Alina only semi-willingly climbs further up in rank, having notable interaction with the royal family of Ravka and eventually accidentally turning herself into a living saint with a whole army of followers and a team ready to die for her.

The sun beat down on my shoulders and warmed my wet legs, drying the droplets of water that splashed me each time a wave crashed. I barely noticed. In the quiet - the kind of quiet teeming with the sounds of nature - of the undisturbed morning, I watched Alina and Mal grow and change. Each emotion reverberated through me and washed back into the glittering lake.

Books leave behind part of themselves in everyone who lovingly turns their pages, a more powerful magic than any Grisha or Sun Summoner is capable of.

"Storytime with Emry" will be a monthly column to review senior Emry Lundy's most recently read books.



By Emry Lundy
22elundy@usd489.com

Kanye West's *Donda* worth the wait, but not his best album

After a couple of weeks to digest Kanye West's much-anticipated 10th album, *Donda*, there are a lot of mixed feelings about it throughout the music industry.

Donda has put up numbers, surpassing one billion streams globally already, despite it releasing Aug. 29. The album also currently has 23 out of its 27 songs on the Billboard Hot 100. After four listening parties in various locations, including selling out National Football League stadiums, and weeks of delaying the release of the project, West made continuous changes to the project throughout each listening party.

Donda was the name of West's late mother, who had passed away at age 58. Many speculate that the intro track where the only word spoken is "Donda" 58 times, or the "Donda Chant," represented his mother's last heartbeats. This album was a dedicated tribute to her.

West starts off the 27-song album with a darker, more sinister tone of

music, especially with the tracks "Off the Grid," "Jail" and "God Breathed," almost representing him being in the dark after his mother passed. Around the midway

mark of the album, West transitions the theme to a more heavenly and angelic theme, with songs like "No Child Left Behind" and "Come to Life," representing him rising to peace and his recovery from the grieving process.

Personally, I think that this album should be looked at more as art than just another album. This is arguably his best production from any album, along with great

features from artists such as Roddy Ricch and The Weeknd.

My favorite songs on the album were "Come to Life," "Ok Ok," "Off the Grid," "Pure Souls," "Hurricane" and "Moon." West continued to show just how talented and versatile he was with these tracks, as he displayed his singing ability in songs like "Remote Control," "Come to Life" and "No Child Left Behind." He showed

his rapping ability in songs like "Off the Grid," "Hurricane" and "Heaven and Hell," and he conveyed his well-known production talent in songs like "Heaven and Hell," "Junya" and "New Again." The best features on this album were Roddy Ricch on "Pure Souls," Jay-Z on "Jail," Don Toliver and Kid Cudi on "Moon" and Lil Yachty on "Ok Ok."

As great as the album was, there were definitely a few weak tracks that hurt the value of the project, such as "Tell the Vision," "God Breathed" and the Part 2 tracks of "Jail," "Ok Ok," "Junya" and "Jesus Lord." The Part 2 tracks felt unnecessary and forced, and they didn't leave much of an impact compared to other tracks. It seemed like West only added them to add more features, which he could have added to the original songs.

Overall, this was an amazing tribute to his mother, and it was worth the wait. However, it was not his best album. I would rate *Donda* an 8/10, and I would rank it fifth among his 10 albums, behind *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, *Graduation*, *Late Registration* and *The College Dropout*.



By Eric Lucio
24elucio@usd489.com



Photos courtesy of Jaren Kanak and Emily Stenzel; infographic by Nikka Vuong

CLEMSON COMMITMENT

Senior commits to continue his football career at ACC school

By Corey Musil
23cmusil@usd489.com

Multi-sport senior athlete Jaren Kanak announced this summer that he would continue his football career for a powerhouse football program at the University of Clemson, an Atlantic Coast Conference school, in South Carolina.

Clemson has established itself as a national powerhouse with national championships as recent as 2016 and 2018, and with many players going on to play in the National Football League.

"The University of Clemson has always been a dream school of mine," Kanak said.

Kanak decided to set his commitment date on July 30 to remember his late father, Jason Kanak, who

died in a car accident in 2008.

"I wanted to honor him and take a day that was once full of tragedy and pain and make a dream come true on the very same day 13 years later,"

Kanak said. "None of these opportunities would be possible, however, without the help of family, friends, teammates, coaches and, of course, my guardian angel."

Clemson was not the only school that tried to recruit Kanak.

According to 24/7 Sports, Kanak had at least 36 offers from universities that included

the University of Alabama, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Michigan and University of Oklahoma, in addition to in-state schools, Kansas State University and University of Kansas.

Kanak said that visiting different programs "was a very unique and awesome experience," adding in an interview with KWCH news, "We went on all the visits and kind of figured out what we liked and what we didn't like."

For Kanak, his major recruiter at Clemson was defensive coordinator Brent Venables, who has Kansas ties. Venables was born in Salina, played for Garden City Community College and KSU and served as a graduate assistant and assistant coach at KSU under former coach Bill Snyder before coaching at Oklahoma and now Clemson.

Kanak told 24/7 Sports that he has a "very strong and close relationship with Venables."

Kanak said that his main inspiration to succeed was "lazy players."

"I just did not want to be like them," Kanak said.

Kanak has drawn comparisons to linebacker Isiah Simmons, who is now in the NFL after being selected eighth in the 2020 draft.

"A lot of people have compared me to him, and it's cool to see that Clemson has been successful with a similar path that I am looking to take," Kanak said on 24/7 Sports.

Kanak said he does plan to graduate early in December to enroll in Clemson and participate in spring workouts.

Hays High Head football coach Tony Crough said, "Jaren has handled the recruitment process very, very well, better than most of us probably would have. He's got a great family that has done a good job raising him, and all the stuff that he has been through with his family has just taught him to be humble."



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ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

BOYS SOCCER



junior Trayton Roa

"Sports are important because they teach me so many life lessons. Sports have taught me how to work hard, to never quit and to always try my best, no matter the circumstance. Sports have also taught me how to work with a team, and this is a skill everyone needs."

GIRLS TENNIS



senior Morgan Shorb

"I believe sports are important because they are a way to make new friends and keep my body happy and healthy. I enjoy spending time with the new friends I have made through the years. I also plan to continue playing sports, whether it be for fun or competitively."

HEALTH

Fall athletic teams work to prevent risks of heat-related illnesses

By Meg Taggart
23mtaggart@usd489.com

In an average year in the United States, about 9,000 high school athletes will fall ill due to extreme heat or humidity, according to the Centers for Disease Control, and the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research states that 51 high school football players have died since 1995.

On Aug. 10, a football player from Omaha, Neb., junior Drake Geiger, collapsed and died during the team's first practice of the season, according to a KWCH article from Aug. 12. That afternoon, the heat index in the area was between 106 to 108 degrees, and doctors say Geiger overheated during one of the first 10-minute drills of practice.

"It's always scary as a coach to hear that other high schoolers have died or became sick because of the heat because that is something that can happen here in Hays," assistant football coach Layton Hickel said. "It's most important to keep kids safe and make sure that's they're not being overworked and are taking proper breaks when they need to."

Thus far, the 2021 athletic season has been warmer than normal, with about nine days from August to October at 99 degrees Fahrenheit or above.

"A lot of us girls on the cross country team were all talking about how we are all so tired of the heat

and how last year at this time [in October], it was way cooler than it is now," sophomore Mika Zimmerman said.

Hays High athletic teams have had no serious heat-related injuries or sicknesses in recent history, but high temperatures and humidity still has had effects on the athletes.

"We have definitely felt sick, due to the heat, while running," Zimmerman said. "It is the worst feeling when you have to keep running but aren't able to stop for a drink."

In order to reduce those feelings, the cross country team has had some morning practices when the temperature was too hot after school, or they have cut practice short, but have had to make up for the lost time by having a more intense workout.

One of the sports that usually hosts the greatest amounts of illnesses related to heat is football, mostly because of all the gear and padding that players must wear.

"In order to protect the football players from becoming sick due to the heat, we've had practices with only helmets on, we take a lot more water breaks and when it gets really hot, we cut practice times down," Hickel said. "I've had no players ever get seriously sick or injured because of the heat in my time as a coach. We always do a good job or preventing it by keeping the players hydrated and monitoring practices."

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