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Issue 3

# The Guidon

December  
2021

Hays High School | 2300 E. 13th St. | Hays, Kan. 67601



## Animal Adoption

With many local animal shelters at capacity, adopting or fostering pets becomes more important  
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### ON THE COVER



Cover and photo illustration by Ryan Schuckman

## ORGANIZATIONS

# Two seniors help Guitar Club member

Students create a prosthetic arm to allow new club member to play guitar

By Cade Becker

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Whether students enjoy classical, country, jazz, rock or other genres of music, Guitar Club, also known as Guitar Tribal Nation, is open to anyone who has an interest in playing the instrument.

That belief was demonstrated earlier this fall, when sophomore Gabe Stanton joined Guitar Club; however, since Stanton was born without half of his left arm, he could not play the guitar as easily as other students in the club could.

Upon learning about this, seniors Wilson Miner and Carver Rajewski, who are enrolled in the Research and Design class in the Industrial Technology Department, took the opportunity to create a prosthetic arm that would allow Stanton to play guitar with ease.

Miner and Rajewski created the prosthetic arm using a three-dimensional software called "Fusion 360" with the help of their instructor, Nathan Wendel.



Photo courtesy of Shawn Henderson

### ABLE TO PLAY

Sophomore Gabe Stanton, a member of Guitar Club, wears his prosthetic arm while senior Wilson Miner, sponsor Matt Whitney, senior Carver Rajewski and instructor Nathan Wendel gather around him.

"When we were first told about it, we felt bombarded due to the design of the arm," Rajewski said. "We were still slightly new to the 3-D program, so thinking about what to do was a nightmare. But, it felt nice to be able to help someone who wanted to learn guitar."

The two seniors started the project about two months ago and are still perfecting the arm

for Stanton. They developed a prototype arm so far, but they will continue to make more based on Stanton's feedback.

"It was pretty cool," Stanton said. "Overall, it felt pretty nice just to hold [the guitar] and all that."

Guitar Club meets on Mondays and Wednesdays after school for about an hour to an hour and a half in sponsor Matt Whitney's room, Room 116. Mondays are for guitar lessons, and Wednesdays are for jam days.

"It allows everybody to come," Whitney said. "It doesn't matter what skill level you're at [and] doesn't matter where you're from, it's just people coming in and learning how to play guitar."

This year, the number of players who participate in Guitar Club has increased significantly.

"The particular chemistry of the players that we have makes it a fun group," Whitney said. "Everybody cares about each other. It is like a big family, so it's really cool."

# Gender Sexuality Alliance allows for expression

By Brooks Baczowski

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On most Tuesdays after school, the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) opens its doors to all people with the goals of being a space where everyone can feel welcome, discuss the issues that affect the members the most and foster a world that is better for everyone.

GSA, led by sponsors Abby Gillan, Erin Ray, Alex Underwood and Jamie Wolbert, is a casual environment; students can come and go to whatever meetings they can. They focus on discussing issues they find important and look for ways to improve on the status quo.

"We kind of just introduce ourselves, chill out and basically just talk about issues

that LGBTQ students face in the school," freshman Harley Gassmann said.

The meetings also include planning events based around spreading awareness and providing LGBTQ students with opportunities they might not otherwise have. On Dec. 7, GSA sponsored a game night, open to all students, in the library. They also have plans to hold a dance that better caters to all students.

In addition to events for students, GSA aims to educate staff members, too. At a faculty meeting on Dec. 2, the sponsors spoke to the staff about creating a safe environment for all students, and they distributed a handout that GSA members created that explains pronoun usage and gives usable suggestions.

Most importantly, GSA acts as a place where anyone can feel like themselves freely.

"People need support, like, they're not necessarily feeling safe at school," freshman Sophie Miller said. "It's essentially a place where everyone can feel comfortable."

According to Miller, potential members include "anyone who wants to educate themselves further on the LGBTQ community or members who aren't already [in the group]."

Throughout their efforts, GSA emphasizes acceptance.

"Acceptance means being able to show your true form without any repercussions," Gassmann said. "Acceptance is just a warm feeling that you get when you know people are supportive of you."



## FACILITIES

## UPCOMING BOND ISSUE

## School district prepares facility options for public vote in April

By Meg Taggart

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It has been multiple decades since voters passed a bond issue for the USD 489 school district. Despite two failed bond issue attempts in the last five years, the district is planning to put another bond issue on the ballot in April 2022.

"While the district has continued to thrive, despite not being able to do any major capital improvements over the last 30 years, it is important for the community of Hays to understand that, to remain a thriving community, we need up to date school facilities," superintendent Ron Wilson said.

The first bond issue passed for USD 489 was in 1916, when Hays built a new high school, now known as Rockwell Academy, at the cost of \$65,000.

"In 1916, we were in the middle of World War I," Wilson said. "I'm sure times were tough for people at that time, and they were probably a little scared, but they knew how important it was for the future of the Hays community to have a new high school."

Citizens passed another bond in 1977 to build a new high school, the current Hays High School, for \$4.6 million.

"In 1977, we were in the middle of an oil embargo, where gas prices had sky-

rocketed, and gas wars were going on because gas was scarce," Wilson said. "Once again, the community rallied, knowing how important it was for the future of Hays to have a new high school."

While the district has formed a Bond Committee, made up of administrators, educators, community members and parents, to work with the DLR Group of architects in May 2021, the committee and the architects have not finalized what would be presented in an upcoming bond issue.

However, the district gave every employee in USD 489 an opportunity to give their input on district facilities on Nov. 10 at an Early Release Day's "build-a-bond" activity.

"After experiencing this activity — attempting to find the best scenario while keeping it cost effective — I recognize we, as a

community, must pass timely bonds to facilitate growth and create adequate environments for our future generations," instructor Kathy Wagoner said.

After hearing opinions from district personnel that day, some of the issues that needed to be addressed became apparent. For example, many of the schools in the district have leaky windows, rusty doors and poor insulation.

While these issues can affect a

student's learning environment, some also can pose a threat to student safety. The only certified tornado shelter in the district is located at Hays Middle School, and some of the shelters at other schools can only be accessed via stairs, so that means people who are not able to navigate the stairs must be carried.

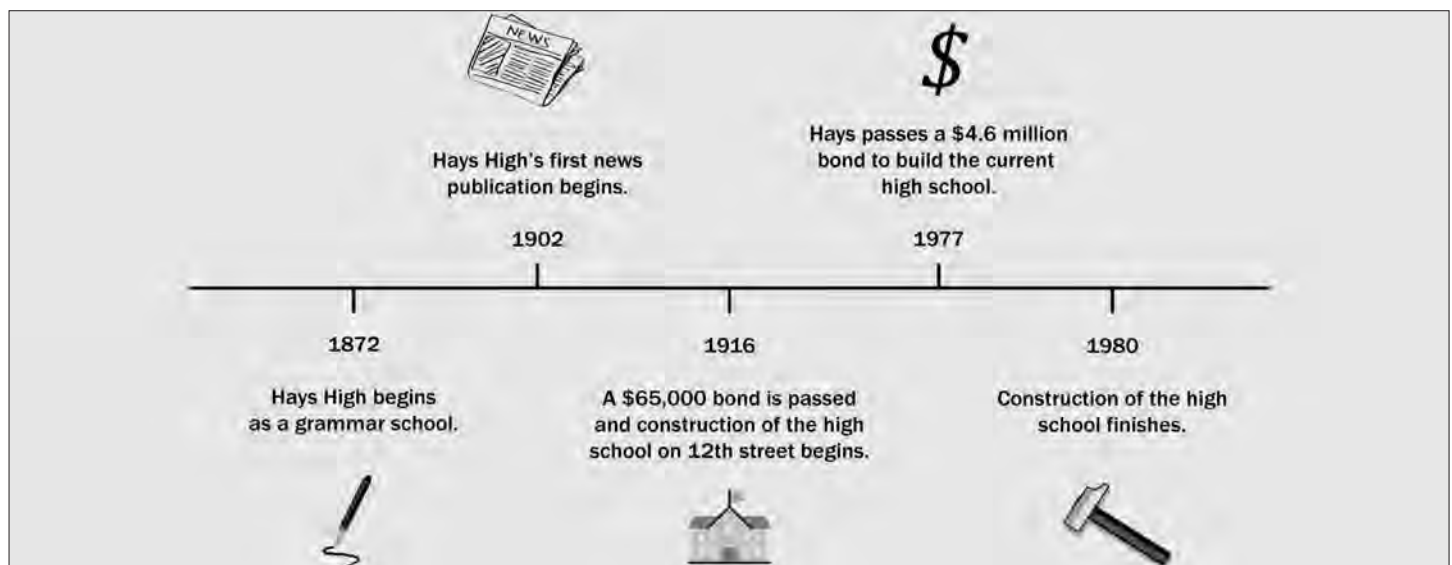
Every school in the district, besides Lincoln Elementary, is also over capacity. Hays High can only accommodate 862 students, and enrollment is 905 students.

"We are doing some really good things in our schools that possibly could become really great things if we are able to update with some future-ready space for our students and staff," Wilson said. "It has become apparent that we lack adequate space for teaching and learning, and we really need the support of our community to help us fix that."

The feedback gathered from the stakeholders was used to create a survey for patrons in the district to weigh in on. Also, the district plans to have community forums for patrons to ask questions about the options that will be considered. After that, the options will be presented to the Board of Education for their consideration of what to put on the ballot in April 2022.

"Any bond issue that could possibly go to voters should remember that voting 'yes' is not only about making our facilities better, but it's also about building for the future of the Hays community, so hopefully that the young people in our schools today will want to make Hays their home in the future," Wilson said.

**"We are doing some really good things in our schools that could become really great things if we are able to update with some future-ready space for our students and staff."**  
superintendent Ron Wilson



Infographic by Ryan Shuckman

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## BUSINESS

## Global supply chain issues affect local Hays community

By Jessica Feyerherm  
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Across the nation, people have been struggling to find items that are usually available to them in the stores. When it comes to supply chain issues, Hays is no exception.

The supply chain was strained when factories shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic has disrupted nearly every aspect of the global supply chain – that's the usually invisible pathway of manufacturing, transportation and logistics that gets goods from where they are manufactured, mined or grown to where they are going," according to a *New York Times* article.

One local business that has encountered issues is Lewis Ford.

"New vehicles are way understocked," sales manager Kalor Moore said. "Currently, we are at a 40 percent of our optimum inventory level. The main issue for the new vehicles is the microchip shortages."

However, the shortage of new vehicles is not the only issue Lewis Ford is facing due to a breakdown in the supply chain.

"People can't get their car serviced because parts are just as backlogged," Moore said. "People will also come in and have their vehicle broken and want to trade

up and get a new vehicle when those are not available. So, they are stuck without a vehicle or needing to rent a vehicle, and the rental vehicles are all gone, as well."

Not having vehicle parts is an issue that another local business, I-70 Truck Repair, is also struggling with.

"Being able to schedule repairs without knowing when parts will be here and keeping productivity up are the biggest issues," service manager Jude Lang said.

However, it is not just global companies and local businesses that have been encountering issues because of the supply chain issues; even the Hays school district has faced shortages of many products that are needed to keep the buildings and the classrooms functioning normally.

Currently the district is running low on toner for copiers to print documents and on replacement parts for teachers' projectors and school computers.

"A lot of things that I do have become self-generated," science instructor Dan Dickerson said. "I make my kids make their data tables instead of copying them. So, it's a little stressful on both teachers and the kids. And, as far as the projector goes, I don't know what I'm going to do if my projector bulb burns out because I don't do well with drawing."

### Have you been affected by supply chain delays?

Yes, at least one product I buy or use has not been available in stores (66.99%)

No, all of the products I buy or use have been available in stores (33.01%)

103 Total Votes

Infographic by Nikka Vuong

## EMPLOYMENT

# COVID leads to teens increasing work hours

## 'Great Resignation' following COVID quarantine opens more jobs and hours for students

By Alexandra Coveney  
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Learning to balance obligations can be challenging for anyone, but this is especially true for students who have regular schoolwork, extracurricular responsibilities and part-time jobs.

Due to an increase in resignation rates in certain fields, such as food and hospitality services, because of the pandemic, many teenagers have picked up extra hours to keep businesses afloat.

According to a recent International Franchise Association survey, "More than 60 percent of franchise brands and owners said they cannot find the labor to meet current demand."

The rise in unfilled positions goes along with the increase in rates of workers quitting their jobs.

"As of June 2021, the highest quit rates are occurring in accommodation and food services (5.7 percent), leisure and hospitality (5.3 percent) and retail trade (4.1 percent)," according to U.S. Chamber of Commerce article.

Over the summer, senior Aaliyah Neuburger worked two jobs, averaging 80 hours a week by working from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. at McDonald's then from 11:30 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. at the Hays Aquatic Park.

"I did this all summer with a couple days off here and there," she said. "Days that I didn't work at the HAP, I would work eight-hour shifts at McDonald's."

During the school year, Neuburger works at McDonald's about 35 to 40 hours a week. On top of that, she is involved in yearbook, Student Council, Quill



Photo courtesy of Rylee Burd

### EARNING MONEY

At Fuzzy's Taco Shop, junior Rylee Burd checks an order in November. Burd, along with other Hays High School students, have stayed busy working due to the availability of open jobs and extra hours caused by the "Great Resignation."

and Scroll Journalism Honor Society, National Honor Society and cross county.

"Work does get in the way of school," Neuburger said. "I have to take off a lot to be involved with my extracurricular activities and community service."

Neuburger said that the best way to learn how to balance time is to stay busy.

"Obviously, don't sign up to be a part of too many things if you don't have the time," Neuburger said. "My best advice would be that you make sure you have your alone time and that it's okay to not want to do something all the time."

Similarly, over the summer, junior Andrea Tinoco-Ramirez worked at Cancun,

averaging more than 40 hours a week.

"I would get a two-hour break from 3 to 5 on all those days since I worked doubles," Tinoco-Ramirez said. "But, I would rarely get out at our closing time since it depended on how busy we were."

With school in session, Tinoco-Ramirez said she works around 20 hours a week because, even though she is focused on making money to be more independent, she prioritizes her education.

"Your education will always be more important than making money at this age," Tinoco-Ramirez said. "With any free time you have at school or before work, you should focus on getting your schoolwork done so you don't fall behind."

Junior Rylee Burd works about the same number of hours per week as Tinoco-Ramirez at Fuzzy's Taco Shop.

"I would say work can get in the way of school sometimes," Burd said. "It can be hard to balance both, but I have to make sure I give myself enough time to do homework and stay out top of my grades."

Burd said she sometimes feels like she does not have enough time to have a social life with school and with work.

"It can be hard trying to make plans with my friends and family because I have very little free time," Burd said.

Burd advises students to start by working less hours to see what they can handle before committing to more hours.

"Working on top of school isn't for everyone, and it takes a lot out of you sometimes," Burd said. "It's a lot easier to start off small and work your way up to make sure you're not giving yourself more than you can handle."

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# Why You Should Adopt

## Shelters see an increase in returned pets after COVID-19 pandemic

By Madighan Norris  
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Within recent months, there has been an unexpected rise in overcrowding in pet shelters across the United States and even in the area.

According to Betty Hansen, the shelter manager at the Humane Society of the High Plains in Hays, this could have something to do with COVID-19.

Hansen said that, during the COVID-19 quarantine in the spring and the summer of 2020, many people nationwide adopted or fostered a pet; however, when students returned to school and people returned to work, many families also returned pets to shelters since they may not have the same amount of free time to care for those pets.

In addition to this, Hansen said that people moving houses, losing jobs and facing hard financial times have also played a role in this issue.

Outside of Hays, the shelter outtake through adoptions and fosters has been significantly reduced after having been at a higher rate during the quarantine. Most shelters are now back to "normal" levels of outtake, but with high levels of intake, which causes overcrowding. For example, in Dallas, Texas, animal services are taking in about 100 animals a day, but only half of those intakes are being adopted, according to *spectrumlocalnews.com*.

With large numbers of pets being returned to or dumped at shelters, some "kill" shelters are euthanizing more animals than normal to maintain open space for others to come in. The Humane Society of the High Plains, though, does not euthanize animals.

"I would say, as of right now, overcrowding has become more of a problem here," Hansen said. "We

have about the same number of pets on our waiting list to come into the shelter as the number of pets available to go out of the shelter. As soon as a dog gets adopted, we'll call and have another animal come in almost right away to take its place."

While there is not a perfect solution to this problem, there are things that community members can do to help local shelters, including visiting shelters to adopt or to foster animals, volunteering at the shelters, donating money or supplies to shelters, spreading word of the problem and sharing social media posts of animals needing adopted or fostered.

Additionally, Hansen said that it is important for prospective adopters to ensure that they understand the lifetime commitment that adopting a pet brings with it and to be informed about different breeds and their needs.

"A big thing that helps is research," Hansen said. "A lot of people come looking for something specific, and I think if people would research certain breeds, it would help with animals being returned or abandoned."

At the Humane Society of the High Plains, there are currently about 20 dogs and 25 cats that need to be adopted. From there, approximately 1,200 pets are adopted annually. Typically, an animal is at the shelter for about two to four months before adoption.

Because the organization is a no-kill shelter, meaning it rarely euthanizes animals, it remains at full capacity all throughout the year. In fact, only two cats were euthanized in 2020 due to severe injuries that could not be remedied.

"Our adoption rate is really high, probably because we are the only shelter west of here until about Colorado," Hansen said.

# Who to Adopt in Hays

## Potential adopters can meet available pets at the Humane Society

By Brenna Schwien  
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### Meet Luna!

Luna is 5-year-old female, spayed Pitbull mix. Luna came to the Humane Society of the High Plains as a stray, and they are still learning about her each day. Luna has a lot of energy and requires an adopter who will be willing to exercise her plenty or have a big fenced-in yard where she can run. So far, Luna is just a thick, loveable girl with tons of bully power. When Luna is outside and gets in her feels, she gets some major zoomies and runs up and down and all around.



### Meet June Bug!

June Bug is a spayed 9-month-old German Shepherd/Blue Heeler mix. June Bug is very energetic and loves to run around and to play with her favorite toys. She is going to require an adopter who will make sure she gets plenty of exercise and backyard time. June Bug has grown up with another dog and does well around him, but the Humane Society of the High Plains does not know how well she does with dogs that she is unfamiliar with. She is friendly to kids, but due to her playful nature, she likes to jump up on people and may jump up onto children.



### Meet Flinn!

He is a 5-month-old, male Domestic Shorthair at the Humane Society of the High Plains. Flinn is a handsome slate grey and white cat with beautiful golden eyes. Flinn is your typical playful kitten who loves to roughhouse with his siblings and then cuddle with humans. He has only been around his mother and siblings, but should also get along well with other cats. Flinn is young enough to where he is probably going to adjust quickly to a new home, even if it has a dog and children. With that being said, adopters should give Flinn a chance to slowly adjust.



## If you own a cat or dog, how did you get your animal?

Adopted from a shelter (37.67%)

Rehomed from an individual (26.71%)

Bought from a breeder (28.08%)

Purchased from a pet store (7.53%)

146 Total Votes

Infographic by Nikka Young

## Praises

- Bald guys
- La Croix
- BLUFFER
- Adoption
- Grilled cheese sandwiches
- Baby cats
- Opossums
- Spotify Wrapped
- Chili
- Ocean Water from Sonic
- Sticky notes
- Iced coffee
- Floss

## Protests

- School Water
- Hawks
- The DMV
- Qdoba
- Gaslighting
- New lunch schedule
- School photos
- Dry weather

## Playlist

- Brooks Backowski**  
"Bad Enough"  
by Teezo Touchdown
- Cade Becker**  
"Aneurysm"  
by Nirvana
- Alexandra Coveney**  
"The Reason"  
by Hoobastank
- Jessica Feyerherm**  
"Joy To the World"  
by Issac Watts
- Eric Lucio**  
"Blessings"  
by Chance the Rapper
- Emry Lundy**  
"Youth"  
by Daughter
- Corey Musil**  
"I Fall Apart"  
by Post Malone
- Madighan Norris**  
"Feels Like Summer"  
by Childish Gambino
- Ryan Schuckman**  
"Set Me On Fire"  
by Future Royalty
- Brenna Schwien**  
"Just A Little While"  
by The 502s
- Meg Taggart**  
"Gimme Shelter"  
by The Rolling Stones
- Nikka Vuong**  
"After You Cry"  
by The Anxiety
- Jessica Augustine**  
"God's Country"  
by State of Mine & Drew Jacobs



Cartoon by Meg Taggart

## Before purchasing their new pets, owners should consider adopting

While there are many different reasons for purchasing a new pet from a breeder versus adopting a pet from a shelter, people should do their research beforehand and really consider adopting, not shopping.

Adopting allows you to save a pet's life and make more room for other animals in the shelters. According to the Humane Society at [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org), each year, it is estimated that more than one million adoptable dogs and cats have to be euthanized in the United States, simply because too many pets come into shelters and too few people consider adoption when looking for a pet.

There are also many options for different pets at animal shelters. Animals of different ages, different breeds and different types are all available for homes, and you can pick which pet will suit you the best. Many older pets are already housetrained and know basic commands, too, saving adopters the time, frustration and costs associated with training.

Pet adoption costs at animal shelters are also much lower, some pets may have already been spayed or neutered and some rescues offer benefits included in the cost, such as vaccines and flea, tick and heartworm preventatives. Buying a pet from a breeder can cost around \$500 to \$1000 or more, whereas adoption costs range from \$50 to \$200, depending on the type of pet you adopt.

Adopting from shelters also means that you are not supporting puppy and kitten mills. These inhumane mills are factory-style breeding facilities that put money above the health of animals. According to Pet Care Hospital at [www.petcarehospital.net](http://www.petcarehospital.net), most animals raised in these mills are housed in poor conditions with improper medical care. They are often in poor health and have ongoing behavior and health problems due to lack of human companionship and inbreeding. Mill animals are sold to unsuspecting consumers in pet stores, over the Internet and through newspaper classified advertisements.

So, when adding a new pet to your family, consider adopting, not shopping.

If you are currently looking to adopt a pet, check out the local shelters in Ellis County, including the Humane Society of the High Plains or the Western Plains Animal Refuge at [www.hshponline.org](http://www.hshponline.org) or [www.wpark.org/adopt](http://www.wpark.org/adopt).

**Opinion of the  
Guidon Staff**  
Agree: 12  
Disagree: 0

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## Information/Policies

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*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](mailto:jaugustine@usd489.com).

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# Storytime with Emry

## Two storylines coexist through wordless art and traditional writing

There is a certain beauty found in rereading a story. Sometimes, years after the first time your fingers turn the pages, disappointment clouds the tale, like when you meet your greatest hero, but the anticipation can make the real thing fail to meet your greatest expectations. Occasionally, though, the memories of love and loss and of joy and sadness remain true to reality. I have found that, for me, *The Marvels* by Brian Selznick fell into the second category.

I first picked up the book the summer after sixth grade because of its colors. The simple golden letters and tiny emblem of a ship against the cloudy royal blue cover drew my eye, and, of course, I adore when pages are gilded with gold. I was interested to see that the first half consisted solely of pictures – pictures of monsters, angels and flames. I finally reached a page forecasting a change in time, finding myself at the true story.

My most recent read of *The Marvels* was only my second. Despite the age gap since I read it, I was still able to find the magic within the pages of *The Marvels*. It tells of a house seemingly frozen in time.

Instead of using electricity, the house's darkness and wintry chill are chased away by candles and fireplaces. Each room is arranged carefully, with leftover food and still-warm tea making it all seem like the occupants just stepped away. Even sounds of voices, footsteps and a chirping canary echo throughout the nearly empty halls, leaving behind the ghostly imprint of people always just out of sight.

The main character, Joseph, ran away over his winter break in search of an uncle, named Albert Nightingale, whom he had never met. All he had was a suitcase weighed down by books, an address and hope.

Once Joseph convinces his uncle to let him stay for a short time, he begins to first realize the mystery within the house. A young neighbor joins him, desperate to discover more in order to learn more of her late brother, who also had connections with the house stuck in time.

Throughout the old house, the phrase “Aut Visum Aut Non” – a Latin saying

meaning, “You either see it or you don’t” – appears: instructing, prodding, mocking. After research leaves Joseph questioning reality, he finds that, with a nudge in the right direction, he does see it; the truth of the house and his uncle clicks into place.

But, the joy and understanding is not meant to last. Time cannot truly stop. Joseph must return to school, leaving his uncle and new friends. The end of the book also feels fractured; different styles come into play in the last pages, along with a return to pictures as a storytelling device.

Even the afterword seemed magical to me, as it informs readers that such a place as Albert Nightingale’s home does exist. The story is modeled after the lives of Dennis Severs and David Milne, creator and current curator, respectively, of the Dennis Severs’ House at 18 Folgate St. in London, England.

I enjoyed *The Marvels* and the idea that a version of the house it depicts is still thriving amidst the streets of London.



By Emry Lundy  
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## Year ends with many newsworthy events affecting youth

With the calendar year ending soon, it seemed fitting to write about the events that have happened during another unprecedented year and how those events have impacted the youth in our country.

The attempted coup on the U.S. Capitol took place and was followed by the inauguration of Joe Biden, our 46th president, and Kamala Harris, the first female vice president in U.S. history. This was a big step in the progressivism being represented within our government and taught young girls that they can achieve what they set their minds to.

Another important event that showed the diversity of our government growing was Pete Buttigieg becoming the first presidential cabinet member who was openly gay. Deb Haaland was confirmed as another member of the cabinet, which made her the first Native American cabinet secretary. The diversifying side

of the government will hopefully open people’s eyes to a new way of seeing varying ideas of different groups being represented by officials in power.

The largest winter storm in Texas history occurred in February, leaving many families without power and resources, which led to President Biden declaring it a national emergency.

The U.S. COVID-19 death toll continued to grow, surpassing 500,000, and the Food and Drug Administration approved a third vaccine variation, the Johnson & Johnson one dose version.

Prince Harry and Megan Markle announced that they were expecting their second child and also appeared in a televised interview with Oprah Winfrey, revealing how they were treated by the royal family, which led to Markle speaking about her struggles with mental health, and in turn, made her an inspiration for

youth watching. Prince Harry and Markle have not been the only ones to speak out for mental health this year, with many celebrities also making sure their voices are being heard.

Mass shootings have not ceased to exist this year either, which in turn, creates an environment in which children grow up looking for places to hide in their classrooms or in which lockdown drills have become second nature to them. These shootings have taught the youth of America that living in fear is normal, and you could lose your life at any given moment.

The music industry has been heavily influenced by powerful women this year as well, with Taylor Swift releasing two of her rerecorded albums so that she could rightfully own them. Beyoncé became the most decorated woman in Grammy history, and Adele and Lorde returned from hiatuses with new albums.

With the year coming to a close soon, I hope that 2022 will be a healthier year filled with more kindness and joy.



By Brenna Schwen  
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## ATHLETICS

## WINTER SPORTS PREVIEWS

## Basketball, swimming and wrestling teams prepare for season

By Eric Lucio  
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Photos by Arely Maldonado, Julia Zadina & Fernando Zarate (Indian Call)

**BOYS BASKETBALL: COACH ALEX HUTCHINS****Who do you believe your toughest opponent will be?**

"Our toughest opponents will likely be teams in both tournaments (Hays City Shootout/Colby Orange & Black), as well as non-conference games against Salina Central and Abilene and Western Athletic Conference games against Garden City and Dodge City."

**What can you do to improve from last year?**

"While it will be very difficult to improve on the season we had last year, we can continue to improve our consistency shooting the ball from the outside and our zone offense."

**What are you most excited to see from your team?**

"I'm excited to see our seniors put all the improvements they've made in the offseason onto the court, and I'm excited to see our younger guys grow into the foundation of our program."

**BOYS SWIMMING: SENIOR DUSTIN RAJEWSKI****What do you think is your team's biggest strength and biggest weakness going into the season?**

"I think the biggest strength is the amount of people on the team, which will help us get more points in events. I think our biggest weakness is that we have a lot of inexperienced swimmers on the team."

**What can you do to improve from last year?**

"We can all improve in our swimming abilities to have us do better in competitions."

**What are you most excited to see from your team this year?**

"I'm most excited to see how we all perform, and [we] hope we can get some state qualifiers."

**GIRLS BASKETBALL: COACH LEN MELVIN****What do you think is your team's biggest strength and biggest weakness going into the season?**

"We have some tremendous ladies. These girls work hard and want to do well. Because of that, we are optimistic that we can experience success. Our biggest weakness will be overcoming past year's results and instead developing a winning mindset."

**Who do you believe your toughest opponent will be?**

"We have several really good opponents; however, that creates a lot of excitement for us all. While we likely will be the underdog most nights, that creates a lot of opportunity!"

**What can you do to improve from last year?**

"Play as a team, develop a family-type culture that trusts in each other and believe we can be successful each and every night."

**WRESTLING: ASSISTANT COACH DAN DICKERSON****What do you think is your team's biggest strength and biggest weakness going into the season?**

"Our biggest strength is that we are very focused. Last season, we struggled staying focused. Our biggest weakness is inexperience, for sure. We either have players that have little to no experience, or we have players at a very high level."

**Who do you believe your toughest opponent will be?**

"We will have two very tough opponents in Dodge [City] and Garden [City]. They're always very good, and it seems like they never have a down year."

**What are you most excited to see from your team?**

"I am excited to see how many people we can take to state; I think that really measures the success on the year. Our hope is to have more people make it to state this year than last year."



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## GAMING

# Online game catches students' attention

By Cade Becker  
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The mobile game "Retro Bowl" has become a sensation among people across the United States and even the world.

"Retro Bowl" was produced by a British video game developer, called New Star Games. New Star Games started on "Retro Bowl" around July of 2019, and by January of 2020, it was ready to be released.

It is downloadable from the Apple App Store and Google Play. "Retro Bowl" is also soon to come to Nintendo Switch in early 2022. The game will be a "premium" title that is accessible with the premium membership.

"Retro Bowl" began with a slow start, featuring download numbers in the thousands, until September of 2021. The Apple App Store featured the game for the start of the football season, and then the eight-bit graphic styled football game, drawn on eight-bit squares like "Pac-Man," exploded.

Now, it has more than seven million downloads and a solid 4.8 out of 5-star rating on the Apple App Store.

"I started playing 'Retro Bowl' like a month ago," junior Eli Rohr said. "The game is very enjoyable and deserves popularity. It also does not use Wi-Fi, so it's a good game to play in the car. I started playing when I saw a bunch of my friends playing it, and now I have about 15 'Retro Bowl' titles."

The popular game allows the player to experience the seat of the head coach of a National Football League team with a twist. They can draft players, maintain facilities, overview happenings, hire coaches, manage media and take control of the team on the field. Players can also purchase a premium version that allows them to create their own leagues, change jersey colors, change names and access other features.

It also has a microtransaction system with coaching credits, which are a currency that can either be earned randomly through winning games or through randomized events. These credits can be used to improve facilities, hire new coaches, get free agent players or maintain player stability.

"I think that the coaching credits are a good thing in 'Retro Bowl,'" senior Jonathan Tate said. "It is how the game makes money and allows for the game to continue to update and become better."

"Retro Bowl" even picked up some TikTok fame with #retrobowl having more than 113 million views and with the most popular video having nearly one million likes and more than 4.8 million views.

"I started playing 'Retro Bowl' a while back because I ended up bored," junior Tony Arial said. "I enjoy it because it's a good way to build progress and spend time. I am pretty good as I have won more than 30 titles. The game deserved the amount of popularity because it was simple, fun, quick pace and had an easy style."



Infographic by Cade Becker

## ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



BOYS WRESTLING

junior Cyrus Vajnar

"Sports have taught me a lot about leadership, confidence and teamwork. I think sports are important to get people to be active and to have something to be competitive in."



GIRLS BASKETBALL

junior Aspen Melvin

"Sports has taught me to be thankful for every opportunity and to live in the moment. Sports build the best relationships. You get to play with your family on the court and spend time with them off the court. It is a sweet blessing, because of who we have this year."

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# Hays Frost Fest

## Annual winter event in downtown Hays draws visitors to local businesses for holiday celebrations and festivities

By Corey Musil  
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Starting on Nov. 4 and lasting through Dec. 18, the Frostfest in downtown Hays is an annual event to celebrate the holidays and support local businesses.

Frostfest events provide chances for businesses to give back to the community by providing fun, free and safe holiday traditions and for customers to support local businesses by shopping locally.

"This impacts the city's sales tax, but also shopping small makes a huge impact," Downtown Hays Development Corporation Executive Director Sara Bloom said.

Out of every \$100 spent at a business, \$68 benefits residents through taxes, payroll and donations to local schools, charities and athletics.

From Nov. 4 to Nov. 6, many downtown businesses had open house events, in which businesses showed their appreciation to shoppers.

"The open house event is just able to bring another level of excitement for all the downtown businesses," Paisley Pear owner Shaun Musil said.

The annual tree light-

ing ceremony on Dec. 3 at the intersection of 10th and Main was another event that brought people to the downtown area, not only to visit the businesses, but also for children to see Santa and Mrs. Claus appear at the tree lighting.

The next day, on Dec. 4, the Winter Craft Fair and Market took place at the Fox Theatre at 9 a.m.

"All of the events just have a huge impact on downtown," Bloom said. "If someone attends one of the events, it's safe to assume they are also shopping and dining in our downtown businesses and spending their money locally."

On Saturday, Dec. 18, there will be more events for people to enjoy with their families and friends to conclude Frostfest.

First, Fox Theatre will be showing the 2000s movie, "The Grinch," at 1 p.m. for its "Flicks on the Bricks" event. Following the movie, at 3 p.m., attendees can take photos with the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who.

Then, the Frostfest parade, themed "Starry Christmas Night," begins at 6 p.m. in downtown Hays.



Photo by Corey Musil

### TREE LIGHTING

On Dec. 3, Frostfest organizers hosted the annual tree lighting ceremony at the intersection of 10th and Main. Frostfest concludes on Saturday, Dec. 18 with "Flicks on the Bricks" and the Frostfest parade.

Finally, that night at 7:30 p.m., there will be a second movie shown at the Fox Theatre, "The Polar Express," to conclude the Frostfest events.

The first Frostfest parade took place in 2006 and was organized by a group of Leadership 310 students at Fort Hays State University.

"The entire season has blossomed from there to include a wide variety of activities," Bloom said.



Q: What do you call a snowman who vacations in the Tropics?  
A: A puddle.

Q: What do you call an obnoxious reindeer?  
A: Rude-olph.

Q: Why does Santa have three gardens?  
A: So he can ho, ho, ho.

Q: Why is everyone so thirsty at the North Pole?  
A: No well, no well.

Q: What did the gingerbread man put on his bed?  
A: A cookie sheet.

Q: How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?  
A: Nothing. It was on the house.

Q: What do you call a snowman with a six-pack stomach?  
A: An abdominal snowman.

Q: What do you get when you combine a Christmas tree with an iPad?  
A: A pineapple.

Q: What goes "Oh Oh Oh"?  
A: Santa walking backwards.

Q: What's every parent's favorite Christmas Carol?  
A: "Silent Night."

Q: What kind of photos do elves take?  
A: Elfies!



Dec. 3  
- "Silent Night"  
- "This Game's Called Murder"

Dec. 10  
- "National Champions"

Dec. 15  
- "Ron's Gone Wrong"

Dec. 17  
- "Spider-Man: No Way Home"

Dec. 21  
- "Grumpy Christmas"

Dec. 22  
- "Sing 2"

Dec. 25  
- "The Tragedy of MacBeth"

## THE GUIDON WORD SCRAMBLE

Answers come from this Guidon newsmagazine & the online Guidon at [www.hayshighguidon.com](http://www.hayshighguidon.com)

1. pg. 2: gariut \_\_\_\_\_

7. pg. 8: rtacono \_\_\_\_\_

2. pg. 3: monye \_\_\_\_\_

8. pg. 9: strometyi \_\_\_\_\_

3. pg. 4: spyulp chnai \_\_\_\_\_

9. pg. 10: absatblkle \_\_\_\_\_

4. pg. 5: kronwgi \_\_\_\_\_

10. pg. 11: ohdonuwct \_\_\_\_\_

5. pg. 6-7: rlhetes \_\_\_\_\_

11. pg. 12: sftro sfet \_\_\_\_\_

6. pg. 6-7: adotp \_\_\_\_\_

Puzzle by Brooks Baczkowski and Alexandra Coveney  
1. guitar, 2. money, 3. supply chain, 4. working, 5. shelter, 6. adopt, 7. cartoon, 8. storytime, 9. basketball, 10. touchdown, 11. frost fest