

Vol. 96
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The Guidon

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



HIGH STAKES

Teenagers use gambling apps,
risk becoming addicted early

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ON THE COVER



Cover and photo by Ryan Schuckman

ORGANIZATIONS

Chapter celebrates National FFA Week

By Cade Becker
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Hays High's FFA chapter sponsored various activities during National FFA Week from Feb. 20 to Feb. 26 to celebrate their organization.

On Sunday, Feb. 20, the chapter held its annual labor auction, which allows members to complete work for the local community members who purchase their labor. According to club sponsor Nikole Winter, nearly \$12,000 was raised from the auction, and this money will be used for senior scholarships.

During the week, FFA sponsored activities for club members, with Tuesday, Feb. 22 being Blue and Gold Day, Wednesday, Feb. 23 being Favorite Tractor Brand Day, Thursday, Feb. 24 being the FFA breakfast and Friday, Feb. 25 being Bring Your Tractor to School Day. FFA Week ended on Sunday, Feb. 27 when they hosted a community "BINGO" event.

"I think FFA is one of the best organizations to get involved with," senior Colton Pfannenstiel, who serves as the chapter sentinel, said. "You gain so many important and valuable skills for life down the road."



Photo courtesy of Hays High School Facebook

TRACTORS AT SCHOOL

During National FFA Week, members of the Hays High chapter stand in front of their tractors that they drove to school for Bring Your Tractor to School Day on Friday, Feb. 25. Each day of the week had a specific theme.

Other officers include president junior Karli Neher, vice president junior Amelia Jaeger, secretary sophomore Mika Zimmerman and reporter senior Ross Eckroat.

With a large number of members in the organization, Winter has started using pods, which are smaller separate groups that allow for members to have more small group interaction.

Besides FFA Week, the chapter participates in events throughout the year, including community service, contests and conventions.

While people may think FFA is only for students interested in agriculture, FFA actually focuses on skills for the future. In order to be in FFA, the only requirement is that you have taken at least one ag class.

"FFA is for everyone," Winter said. "Whether you plan on to go into agriculture after high school or not, you gain real-life skills. Public speaking skills is one huge takeaway, and then just confidence and communication skills that you need after high school."

Students brainstorm ideas, present them in DECA

By Jessica Feyerherm
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On March 7, DECA students participated in virtual Zoom contests for their state competitions.

"The competition had a ton of different options to compete in," senior Aleya Ruder said. "I was in a three-person group for the Business Operation Research category. We learned a lot about how to improve the employee experience of a local business here in Hays."

Contestants who qualify for nationals will compete in Atlanta from April 22-27.

"We thought our actual

presentation was our best run through yet – even better than any of our previous practices," Ruder said.

DECA is a co-curricular organization that teaches students about business management, marketing and entrepreneurship.

Business teacher Shaina Prough has sponsored DECA for 22 years.

"Seeing students compete and experience success on a large stage is my favorite part of being the DECA advisor," Prough said.

Students involved in DECA appreciate the lessons that the organization teaches them.

"My favorite part about DECA is the independence and real-life application that it requires," senior Kamree Leiker said. "I think that every class should enable students to problem solve real-life issues and explore outside of the school with high-standard businesses."

Ruder said there were many benefits of DECA.

"DECA is extremely valuable to getting introduced to the business and professional aspect of life," Ruder said. "We have the opportunity to learn through experience, which is the best way to get involved."

AWARENESS

New Options Advisory Board encourages healthy relationships

By Alexandra Coveney
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Every other Tuesday, the Options Advisory Board meets to develop ways to promote safe and healthy relationships.

Family and Consumer Science teacher Sue Tebo serves as the board's sponsor.

According to Tebo, the student board was designed to help Jana's Campaign and Options, both of which help with domestic, relationship and sexual violence issues, with developing "teen" ideas.

Tebo started the advisory board because she felt it was important and was necessary at Hays High.

"I firmly believe in educational practices to help promote healthy relationship behaviors and respect among adolescents," Tebo said. "I will continue to advocate, promote and educate our students about healthy relationships."

Tebo said she believes the exposure of the advisory board has already made a big difference.

"With the advisory board, the student's voice is the voice that is needed – the voice that is heard and used," Tebo said. "We are also involved in many school and community projects."

So far, the Options Advisory Board wrapped donated gifts for domestic violence survivors for Christmas, wrote letters to survivors and sponsored a Freedom Walk in January to make people more aware of the increase in sex trafficking issues.

On March 3, the advisory board also brought a "Let's Chalk about Love" event to Hays High. All students and staff were invited to attend the activity, in

which they could draw and write on the sidewalks. These affirmations, drawings and words were in support of advocating positive and safe relationships for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

"Currently, the advisory board is working on a teen dating safety plan brochure that will be given to those who need it," Tebo said. "This is such an awesome project for the students."

According to Tebo, members of the advisory board have met at the Options building in Hays multiple times throughout the school year to help with different projects. Members also plan to host a bake sale to donate funds to Options and start a poster contest in April. Tebo says these projects will also be continued throughout the summer.

"I am very proud of the group of students who are actively engaged on the advisory board," Tebo said. "They have come up with some incredible ideas and have shown strong passion for this."

Junior Rylee Burd is the chair of the board, sophomore Harley Werth is the vice chair and sophomore Hannah Klein is the secretary.

"My favorite part is definitely seeing new people's faces light up at meetings when they hear about what we are doing," Werth said.

Students looking to join the Options Advisory board are welcome to attend one of the meetings after school or during PRIDE Time.

"My favorite part would have to be serving as the chair," Burd said. "In doing that, I get to hear great and new ideas from different students and form good connections with them."

Healthy Relationship Signs

- treats you with respect
- enjoys similar activities
- lifts you up with compliments
- is encouraging
- is caring
- shares thoughts and feelings
- is trustworthy

Unhealthy Relationship Signs

- isolates you from friends/family
- has an explosive temper
- is very insecure and jealous
- has constant mood swings
- is physically or verbally abusive
- is controlling towards you

Infographic by Brenna Schwien



Photo by Arely Maldonado (Indian Call)



Photo by Amedee Randle (Indian Call)



Photo by Arely Maldonado (Indian Call)

CHALK ABOUT LOVE

On Thursday, March 3, sophomore Harley Werth writes a message in chalk in front of the school during the Options Advisory Board's "Chalk About Love" event. Werth was vice chair of the board.

POSITIVE AFFIRMATIONS

Students wrote messages, such as "Love Yourself," "You Are Enough," "Love Is Love" and others, in chalk during the Options Advisory Board event, which was open to all students and staff.

CHALK IT UP

Sophomore Brygette Ross finishes the word "you" as she writes her chalk message on March 3. Ross was one of the 17 sophomores involved in the Options Advisory Board.

ACADEMICS

Boost program offers chance for students to recover credits

By Madighan Norris
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At the start of second semester, the administration introduced a new credit recovery curriculum for Hays High students, called Boost.

The Boost program is a structured plan for students who ended a semester at risk of losing credit in a class or in multiple classes. Instead of failing, it allows them to recover credit so that they are on track to graduate. While the program is strongly encouraged for those who failed a class, it is not required of them.

"Boost is academically focused, yes, however, students also learn the value of committing to opportunities for personal growth," Computer-Based Learning (CBL) instructor Melanie McDonough said.

Just certain students qualify for the Boost program; only those who were within five percent of a passing grade, which is a 62 percent, are eligible for the program.

Students who are involved are required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is an agreement among the student, his or her parent, the teacher and an administrator.

The students who participate in Boost independently complete their missing course requirements, meaning they can work on the program from their homes, during Guided Personal Study (GPS), during Computer-Based Learning (CBL) and more. The students are expected to dedicate extra time to complete their courses before a strict, set deadline. For most cases, the deadline is four weeks from when the MOU is signed.

From the fall semester, there were 49 students taking 52 courses who signed up for the Boost program.

The CBL class, which was introduced at the beginning of the school year, is not only a way for students to complete the Boost course, but also a way for students to take classes not taught otherwise at Hays High. For example, Hays High does not have a designated class for Latin, so if a student wants to learn that foreign language, he or she could do it in CBL.

"The class really depends on what the student needs," assistant principal Fred Winter said.

For credit recovery in the Boost program, students still cover

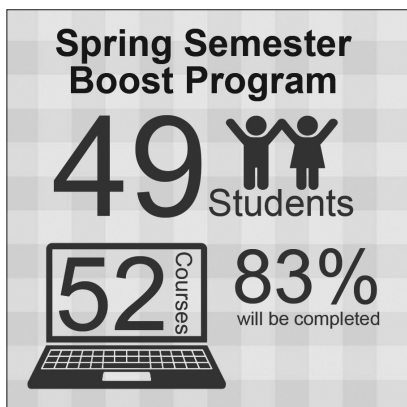
the same information as in a regular class; it is just online. Students address the exact same material the Kansas state standards require, like summer school does. The only difference between the CBL class and a normal class is the absence of

a teacher guiding the student daily.

In addition, students in Boost can only recover credit to pass; it is not an opportunity to raise an F, for instance, to an A.

CBL is located in Room 113F, which is in the corner of the library by the patio doors. It is held three times a day and is monitored by McDonough. Roughly 60 students are currently in the classes, with about 12 to 15 students per class period.

"Luckily, I did this kind of work at my old school in Colorado, so I'm just trying to build it off what I've done in the past," McDonough said. "I am very reflective. I am constantly looking at our practices and what we can improve. I don't know if something is an issue until we hit a roadblock. Then, we just work to make the changes, which makes the program better. We are constantly failing forward."



Infographic by Nikka Vuong

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STUDENT LIFE

'THE CURIOUS SAVAGE'**Cast members set to perform Spring Play on March 10-12**

By Eric Lucio
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The Spring Play cast will be performing John Patrick's "The Curious Savage," directed by Bill Gasper, on March 10, 11 and 12 at the 12th Street Auditorium.

The play will be at 7 p.m. on all three nights, and general admission tickets \$6 in advance or \$7 for payment at the door. There are also advanced tickets available for sale at the Hays High School office.

"The Curious Savage" is a comedy about a widow, Mrs. Savage, who is left with \$10 million in inheritance. Savage wants to use the money for good to establish a fund for kids to discover their dreams. Her stepchildren, however, commit her into a sanatorium to "bring her to her senses." In reality, they just want her money. In the sanatorium, she meets many men and women who could use her help through the fund.

After staying there, Savage realizes that the patients are her type of people, and she wants to spend more time with them. When the doctor says she is free to go, she struggles to go back into the real world. Savage leads her children on a wild chase to get her. However, Savage's sanatorium friends have plans to help her.

"It's a great story with interesting characters," Gasper said. "That's probably why it's been performed by so many times. It's very humorous but not in an over-the-top farcical sort of way. I particularly like the play because it delivers meaningful messages about family, generosity, greed and kindness. And although it was

written in 1950, those messages still ring very true today."

Gasper said there are 11 students in the cast with three others helping behind the scenes.

"I wanted to do a more serious, Broadway style play this year and those generally have smaller casts," Gasper said. "The downside to a small cast is that typically means smaller audiences, so I'm encouraging people to come out and watch what will be a very fine performance."

Senior Stanna Flinn, a member of the cast, also shared her experiences through rehearsals and preparation for the play.

"Rehearsals have been great," Flinn said. "Many of the new freshmen have stepped up to the plate. It has been nice to have freshmen, sophomores and juniors that are able to balance the fun we are having during [rehearsal] and when they have to be on stage and act serious."

While production has gone smoothly, it has not been completely ideal.

"We haven't had many problems during this production, other than the fact that two of the main characters had to be gone for a week," Flinn said.

Despite that, senior Grace Wente said she has enjoyed preparing for her last Spring Play.

"I am very excited for everyone to finally be able to come watch the show," Wente said. "We've worked very hard on it for nearly two months. I've enjoyed each year that I've been in the shows, and I will definitely miss it since this is my last year."



Photo courtesy of Bill Gasper

SPRING PLAY CAST

Cast members of "The Curious Savage" will perform the Spring Play on March 10, 11 and 12 at 7 p.m. each night at 12th Street Auditorium.



Photo courtesy of Bill Gasper

CURIOUS SAVAGE

Patients of The Cloisters, a sanatorium for people with various emotional problems, express their irrational fear to Mrs. Savage (Devlyn Jochum) for looking at a newspaper.



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A Ban on Books

Recent protests call for specific books to be banned

By Brenna Schwien
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From Dr. Seuss to “Maus,” books are again at the forefront of school content that is being highly contested by many parents and even legislators for the messages that are being communicated through these literary works.

Some parents believe that keeping certain books within the circulation of local and school libraries or that teaching specific texts forces their children to learn about events and read literature that these parents consider “inappropriate” for their children.

Because of this, there has been a push for legislation that would limit the books that teachers would be allowed to teach, and 10 states have already adopted some form of this legislation. Commonly known as “education gag orders,” these laws mainly affect K-12 schools, but colleges are beginning to deal with impacts as well.

“Controversy over the appropriateness of books and book banning has been around for decades,” Hays High librarian Lynette Armstrong said. “But, in recent months, more people are speaking out at state and local levels. Social media

makes it easier for people to share ideas and opinions. It also helps people with similar views find a common group and organize together.”

Despite the social media campaigns to ban books reaching many schools across the country, locally, there has not been any major pushes for books to be banned within the Hays community.

“I have been a librarian in our district for 14 years, and I have never had a personal experience with a parent or patron requesting to remove a book,” Armstrong said. “Our school district does have a policy in place that spells out step by step how our district would

handle a request to challenge a book.”

Many people find problems with books that discuss ideas about race, history and societal standards, but this does not mean that readers cannot enjoy books that have been labeled as banned.

“One of my favorite books from the American Library Association’s list of frequently banned books is ‘To Kill A Mockingbird’ by Harper Lee,” Armstrong said. “The reason I like this book is the memories I have of reading it in high school with my favorite English teacher and the discussions we had as a class.”

“To Kill a Mockingbird” is one of the

incredible administration that supports our teachers and the literature we choose to teach.”

Having a favorite book that has been banned creates a community that is more accepting of differing ideas and challenging concepts.

“My favorite book of all time is ‘Of Mice and Men,’” Schumacher said. “It has been banned multiple times for the use of racial slurs when people talk about Crooks, plus ethical euthanasia debates. Personally, I love the discussions students have about the end of the novella and George’s decision.”

There has also been a large push for students to be taught the historical truths of the United States and of their ancestors, which in turn has upset many parents, but students have lobbied to keep these hard-hitting books within circulation.

“I think we are seeing such a rise in book banning because teachers and students are wanting to learn hard history and deep emotional topics that change the culture of the United States,” senior Grace McCord, Book Club president, said. “Some people don’t want the history of the United States shared with students because they learn the harsh realities of the country we live in.”

There are many benefits that reading a banned book can have for readers, but if these books are being pulled from shelves, they can have less of an impact.

“Literature is all about making people question themselves, the world they live in and those around them,” McCord said. “I seek out stories that challenge me to think differently. Sometimes while reading a banned book, I feel like I haven’t done enough to help advance the cause of a certain issue or even frustrated that I haven’t done enough to educate myself on certain issues, but I have never read a banned book that hasn’t offered me meaningful insight.”



Infographic by Brenna Schwien

many contested books that is banned in some communities because of racial slurs and racism discussion, but teachers across America want to expose their students to the realities that African Americans during this time were experiencing.

“‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ and ‘Of Mice and Men’ are two of the most banned books in the United States school systems, and I teach both of those books,” English instructor Vanessa Schumacher said. “If I was a teacher getting ready to teach these books, who was dealing with pushback on them, I would ensure that every student has a good grasp of the historical context. Luckily, here at Hays High, we have an

What Is Your Favorite Book?

Students share their top book picks



“My favorite book was called ‘The Guest List,’ and it was about a wedding in Ireland. There was a certain number of guests, and someone gets killed on the island. They have to determine who was the murderer from their guest list. It’s really cool because I like mystery books.”
– senior Madelyn Martin



“My favorite book is ‘A Thousand Splendid Suns.’ It’s about 50 years of Afghanistan history with two points of view from two women during that time period. It’s my favorite book because it’s just really interesting to see how women’s rights have changed throughout history.”
– senior Mindi Veatch

“[My favorite books are] the ‘Selection’ series. It’s just always interesting, and there’s always plot twists, and it’s romantic, so it’s kind of cute and fun.”
– sophomore Lillian McGrath



“My favorite is the book ‘Everything, Everything’ by Nicola Yoon. My favorite thing about it was probably just the plot. There was a girl who had some disorder that her mom had created for her. It turns out in the end she didn’t really have a disorder.”
– sophomore Mylissa Molnar



“My favorite book is called ‘Get Out of Your Own Head.’ It’s basically just a book describing how to get negativity out of your head, and it helps you with challenges that you might face in your life.”
– sophomore Kamryn Summers



“My favorite book is ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part II,’ mostly because it’s the finisher of the whole series. You feel overwhelmed with joy, like, ‘Oh my gosh, I love this,’ and it honestly has a really good ending. I love magical stuff. I just love it.”
– freshman Kate Stieben

Praises

- Gay penguins
- Granola guy
- March Madness
- Docuseries
- Peppa Pig
- People who can wink
- Cancun
- Megaroni
- Staplers
- Moms
- Water filters
- Ice cold water
- School Cheez-Its

Protests

- Wind
- Hackers
- Tinder
- Working
- Carrots with peanut butter
- Chewsdays
- Earaches
- Human trafficking

Playlist

- Brooks Baczkowski**
"No More Parties In L.A."
by Kanye West
- Cade Becker**
"Trauma"
by NF
- Alexandra Coveney**
"Beautiful"
by Eminem
- Jessica Feyerherm**
"Amour Plastique"
by Videoclub
- Eric Lucio**
"Bad Idea"
by Cordae
- Emry Lundy**
"Bruises"
by Train
- Corey Musil**
"UCLA"
by RL Grime
- Madighan Norris**
"Dream in Color"
by Cordae
- Ryan Schuckman**
"Breakout"
by The Score
- Brenna Schwien**
"Birthday Cake"
by Dylan Corrique
- Meg Taggart**
"Borderline"
by Tame Impala
- Nikka Vuong**
"Paranoia"
by Spencer Sutherland
- Jessica Augustine**
"That's Damn Rock & Roll"
by Eric Church



Cartoon by Madighan Norris

Awareness of human trafficking can help prevent future crimes

Human trafficking is at an all-time high, according to reports; therefore, people should be more aware of the severity of this issue, even if they do not think that it pertains to their everyday lives.

Human trafficking is a global crime that trades in people and exploits them for profit, according to www.unodc.org. People of all genders, ages and backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. Traffickers use physical violence, fraudulent employment and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick, coerce and deceive their victims.

Often, the most common targets for human traffickers are minors and young women because these individuals usually do not have the means or power to protect themselves.

In the 2020 "Global Report on Trafficking in Persons," it showed that 50 percent of detected victims in 2018 were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 38 percent were exploited for forced labor and 6 percent were subjected to forced criminal activity, while 1 percent were coerced into begging, and smaller numbers into forced marriages, organ removal and other purposes.

According to the same report, in 2018, about 50,000 human trafficking victims were detected and reported by 148 countries. Europe, the Middle East, North America and some countries in East Asia and the Pacific are destinations for trafficking victims from a wide range of origins.

Human trafficking is happening all around the world, so it is important to make sure that more people are educated about the truth of human trafficking to prevent further increase in cases in order to create a safe society and world.

Some ways you can contribute to the stop of human trafficking include knowing the signs of human trafficking, reporting a tip, spreading the word, considering where you shop and staying informed.

For further information about how you can help to end human trafficking, check out www.state.gov/20-ways-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking.

**Opinion of the
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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.

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Storytime with Emry

Utter darkness creates an intriguing read in 'House of Leaves'

Are you afraid of the dark?

I do not mean a night lit by softly glowing stars. Here, I mean true darkness. Utter blackness. No light, no sound. A type of darkness that isolates one's senses and inspires madness. This type of darkness is explored in Mark Danielewski's "House of Leaves."

The novel opens with an introduction by narrator Johnny Truant. The audience learns that his neighbor has died of "old age," though Johnny is suspicious. He notes gashes carved into the floorboards by Zampanò's lifeless form that are ignored, never to be readdressed. The book itself is said to be a compilation of Zampanò's research and writings over a film by the name of "The Navidson Records." Shortly, the audience discovers that this film never has and never will exist; it is only a product of Zampanò's own mind.

The concept is intriguing, though. The film supposedly by Will Navidson depicts his move to Virginia with his family. This

home on Ash Tree Lane seems ordinary at first, but this belief soon shatters with the addition of a quarter of an inch inside the house that cannot be accounted for from the outside. This miniscule distance is something the home's occupants would long for as the story progresses revealing a hallway closet (one that was not there before) that is pitch black and seems to grow and change each time it is viewed.

Danielewski's formatting is a wonder within itself. The plot of this nonexistent film is told as if in a research paper. Zampanò includes footnotes, mentioning interviews that have never occurred and scientific studies that have never taken place. Truant, while compiling the words, ideas and research into some form of a manuscript for a book, adds his own footnotes. Through these, the audience can see Truant's life as well.

His descent into madness can also be seen through these footnotes. Every person associated with "The Navidson

Records" seems to follow this same path. Navidson, his family and his friends are driven mad by the closet and the miles and miles of darkness within. Zampanò's obsession with this story is seen through the way the words on the page flip forwards, backward, sideways and reversed, and even perhaps his ultimate demise, surrounded by suspicious claw marks. However, these layout choices may also be indicative of Truant's own spiral. His personal footnotes also depict several psychotic breaks and a slow recession into a lonely existence within his own home.

"House of Leaves" was far from what I expected. It took me several tries to begin the book because of Truant's habit of cursing, which turned me away after several pages each time, but I finally managed to press onward. There are several mature themes throughout the book, some of which I only skimmed, but by that point, I had fallen in too deep to turn back. I am glad that I persisted, though my overactive imagination may beg to differ, conjuring growls without source and shapeless figures in the late hours of night.



By Emry Lundy
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Student explains history of, importance of Russian invasion

On Thursday, Feb. 24, bombs, gunfire and missiles rang out in the Texas-sized country of Ukraine, as neighboring Russia invaded the independent country.

Bordering the western part of Russia, Ukraine separated from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or the USSR, in 1991 during the breakup of the Soviet Union. Soon after, Ukraine, along with many other former Soviet Union states, became aligned with the "Western" world that desires peace and human rights.

In 2014, Russia invaded and then annexed the country of Crimea, another part of the former Soviet Union. Crimea is surrounded by the Black Sea, which meant, by annexing it, Russia gained its only warm water port that connects to many maritime trade routes. Ukraine sits in between Crimea and Russia, making the country one that Russian president Vladimir Putin wants to control.

Ukraine also exports many products, including agricultural goods, chemicals, fuel and steel, to name a few. Ukraine also trades with many NATO countries,

such as the United States, Turkey, Poland and Germany. In 2019, the United States imported roughly \$1.3 billion of desired materials from Ukraine.

Since Ukraine has aligned more with the "Western" world, they are a part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which was established in 1949. Even though Russia has ties to NATO, too, Russia still views NATO countries as possible threats. This is because, after the breakup of the Soviet Union, NATO deployed troops in areas that had separated from the rule of Russia. Russia saw this as a threat, as many countries set up bases, embassies and strategic points that could be used against Russian politically and economically in the future.

By imposing fear on other countries and using its military power, Russia is trying to regain Ukraine into its "empire" and even reform the USSR, but the United

States, along with other NATO countries, need to shut down Russia quickly.

The United States and many other countries have imposed sanctions on Russia, some of which include blocking exports to Russia and blocking Russian bank transactions, in an effort to hit the Russian economy. On Feb. 26, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union agreed to remove Russia from SWIFT, which is a major financial institution that allows transactions internationally.

While hard sanctions hopefully will force Russia to withdraw from Ukraine, NATO forces joining together may also be needed to end this chaos. However, the United States, along with NATO, should only strike when they believe Russia poses more of a threat. If Russia plans to invade another country, then allies should advance so another World War does not occur.



By Cade Becker
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ONLINE BETTING

RISKS & REWARDS

Gambling apps and sites become more popular with teens

By Meg Taggart
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From state to state in the United States, the legal age and the specific laws for sports betting and general gambling are not uniform.

In Kansas, most forms of gambling are considered illegal. At age 18, participants can win from lottery tickets and prize raffles, and at age 21, they can play casino-style games at designated casinos.

However, online sports betting through apps and websites also becomes legal at 18 in some states, although, technically, it is illegal in Kansas. While gambling apps and sites cannot be managed in Kansas, Kansas residents can use apps or sites from other states where they are legal to run them.

Most have the user provide a form of identification, which can prove the person's age, and then the user is allowed to place bets for as much money as the person chooses.

"I use an app called 'Prize Picks,' because that's the app my friends suggested," senior Carson Kieffer said. "I don't really know why my friends started betting, but I tried it after they did."

As high school students turn 18, betting on sports using these apps has become more common, which can be concerning given how addictive gambling can be.

Gambling is addictive in the same way that alcohol or drugs are because gambling stimulates the brain's reward system. Gambling is considered a progressive addiction and is classified as an impulse-control disorder, the most common impulse control disorder in the United States.

Teenagers are also slightly more likely to gamble irresponsibly because the prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain responsible for making decisions, does not fully develop until people are around 25 years old, making impulse decisions more likely in teenagers.

"Addiction is a serious issue among teenagers nationally, and typically, only substance addiction is mentioned, but gambling should also be talked about as well," counselor Amy Miller said. "Gambling can be just as troublesome because it becomes legal to students years before their brains are developed and before the other addictive substances become legal. I've also personally seen how a gambling addiction can lead to financial debt and even bankruptcy."

There are many trends that gain and lose popularity quickly with teenagers, and it is unclear yet if sports betting will remain popular.

"Betting has become popular among students because it's something new, and there's always a chance to win," Kieffer said. "I think it's going to stay popular longer than other trends because every bet is different, and it will keep people interested."



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SPRING SPORTS

Previous coach returns to lead Indian softball team

By Corey Musil
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Hays High softball players and fans will see a familiar face in the dugout this spring, as social science instructor and former softball coach Abby Gillan has returned to lead the lady Indians.

Gillan resigned as the Indians' head coach after the 2015 season following seven years as head coach, three years as assistant coach and six years as the coach of a traveling softball team.

"I was a little burned out on coaching," Gillan said. "My closest assistants that had been with me for most of my tenure as head coach were also at points where they also needed to step away."

That break from coaching was Gillan's first break from softball in about 26 years. Gillan had played the sport as a child growing up, throughout high school as a student at Hays High and during college at Fort Hays State University, which led to her coaching when she returned to teach at Hays High.

"My time away allowed me to become much more engaged in other aspects of the teaching profession and invest more time in life outside of work," Gillan said.

However, after time off, Gillan said she decided it was the right time to get back into coaching the sport again last summer when the position became available.

"When the opportunity to coach softball came back around, it happened to be the right time," Gillan said.

Gillan said she did not just miss the game of softball; she also missed the people and environment around the game of high school softball.

"What I really missed were the relationships I built within the team atmosphere with my coaching staff, players, officials and opposing teams," Gillan said.

Gillan said she is also excited to get to work again with a great group of up-and-coming softball athletes, many of whom were underclassmen last year, and assistant coaches.

"There's a great group of girls that are a part of the program and some awesome applicants for assistant coaches," Gillan said. "I am happy to be back and look forward to the opportunity to be back doing what I love this spring."

For their part, the team members are excited to have Gillan as their coach.

"I am looking forward to getting to learn from Coach Gillan because she has a lot of knowledge about the game and that can benefit me as a player," senior Brenna Schwien said.

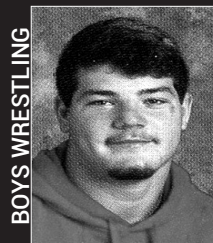


Photo by Bill Gasper (Indian Call 2010)

BACK TO COACHING

Abby Gillan returns this spring as softball head coach. Gillan resigned in 2015 after seven years of coaching the program.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



BOYS WRESTLING

senior Gavin Meyers

"Sports have taught me how to be a leader on and off the field, as well as how to have discipline. Sports are important because they teach you many life lessons and can prepare you for the real world."



GIRLS WRESTLING

junior Sarah Zimmerman

"Sports have taught me to learn from my failures and keep trying. I think sports are important because they can introduce you to new friendships and teach you valuable lessons."

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TOUR OF KANSAS

Use Spring Break to visit these 10 landmarks in Kansas

By Emry Lundy
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Each of the 50 states has spots that are memorable. Some, like the Statue of Liberty in New York, the Hollywood sign in Los Angeles or Mount Rushmore in South Dakota are nationally recognized, while others may only be famous to those in the area.

Kansas has many unique spots to visit, containing something new even for those who have lived their entire lives in the state. Students and teachers at Hays High have recommended 10 such locations.

The first unique location in the Garden of Eden in Lucas.

"It had a lot of statues that represent different Bible stories or depictions of the world, including a pathway that you enter into first with Adam and Eve on both sides," senior Jada Thomas said.

Students (and tourists) seem to have a fascination with supersized landmarks, as the next three spots on the list include giant items.

The first is the Ball of Twine in Cawker City. It was made by Frank Stoeber, who started the creation in 1953. By his death in 1974, the ball contained 1.6 million feet of twine and sat at 11 feet wide.

This ball is the largest of its kind and continues to grow every year at the annual "twine-a-thon" each August.

This fascination with large objects continues with the World's Largest Czech Egg in Wilson. The 20-foot by 15-foot fiberglass egg painted by local artist Christine Slechta stands proud in the "Czech Capital of Kansas."

Finally, again in Lucas, visitors can also find the World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things. This odd collection started in a modified Ford van and contains art and sculptures made by artist Erika Nelson.

Another interesting place to visit is the Castle Rock Badlands in Gove County.

"I went to Castle Rock about a year ago, and it's basically this giant limestone rock formation in the middle of Kansas, and it's just crazy because with Kansas winds, that brittle rock that it is, it's eroding so, so quickly," junior Devlyn Jochum said. "It's kind of a treasure that you've got to see while you can."

Similarly, Little Jerusalem's rock formations litter the 330 acres of a state park in Logan County.

Another interesting place

includes the formations found in Mushroom Rock State Park in Ellsworth County. This state park is the smallest in the state, stretching only five acres.

Another notable geological point in Kansas is the Geographic Center of the United States in Lebanon.

No. 9 on the list is Big Brutus. This attraction is a bit more mechanical than the others on the list. Big Brutus, the largest electric shovel still in existence, is the centerpiece of the mining museum in West Mineral. This Bucyrus-Erie model 1850-B electric shovel was used for coal strip mining in the '60s and '70s.

To conclude the list is the Sallie House in Atchison. This haunted house was the home of a physician. One day, a mother brought her 6-year-old daughter, Sallie, to the physician after she had collapsed from abdominal pain that was diagnosed as appendicitis. Sallie died on the operating table in a fit of screams after the physician began surgery before the anesthesia had time to take effect. Reported hauntings at the house began in 1933.

There are hidden gems in every state to explore. The next time you go on a trip, try and see what you can discover.



Q: Why did the leprechaun go outside?

A: To sit on the paddy-o

Q: Why do leprechauns love to garden?

A: They have green thumbs!

Q: Why shouldn't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

A: Because they're always a little short.

Q: Where do sheep go for spring break?

A: The Baa-hamas

Q: Why is March the most popular month to use a trampoline?

A: It's spring-time.

Q: Kids call it Spring Break – but what do some parents call it?

A: Spring Broke

Q: What did the beach say to the people who came back for Spring Break?

A: Long time no sea.

Q: Which type of bow can't be tied in March?

A: A rainbow.

Q: What falls during March but never gets hurt?

A: The rain.

Q: What March flowers grow on faces?

A: Tulips.

Q: Why did the mom call pest control?

A: Ants were on the March.



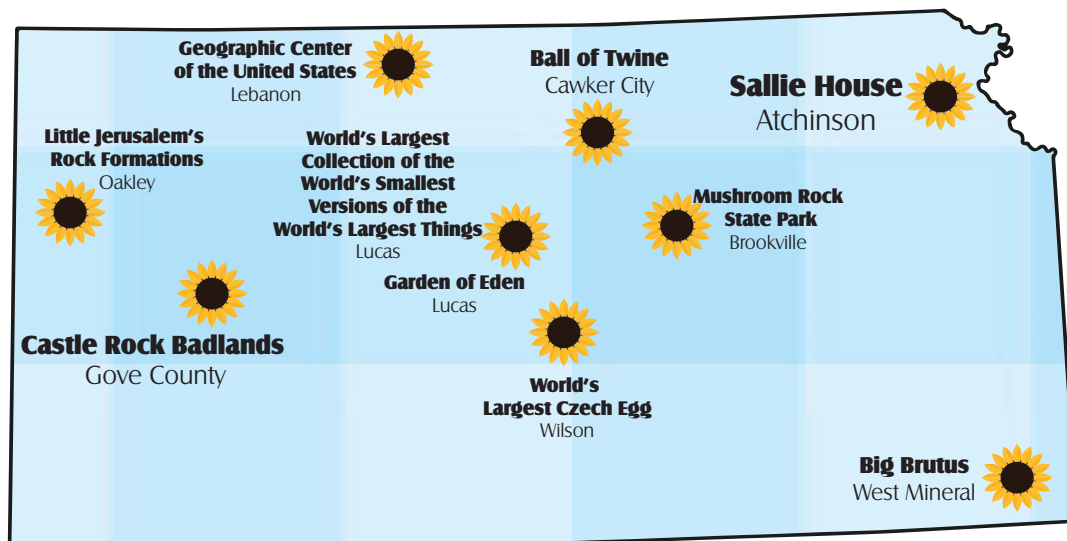
March 1
- "After the Pandemic"

March 4
- "The Batman"

March 11
- "Tyson's Run"
- "Turning Red"

March 18
- "Cheaper by the Dozen"
- "Umma"

March 25
- "The Lost City"
- "You Are Not My Mother"



Infographic by Brenna Schwien