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ON THE COVER



Cover photo illustration by Eric Lucio using www.artbreeder.com

ORGANIZATIONS

Student Council partners with Wonder Women League to make free sanitary products available in restrooms

By Eleanor Bittel
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This spring, Student Council made an major effort to make the girls' bathrooms more welcoming and more convenient for students.

After a Student Advocacy Program meeting, at which some students suggested improving the restrooms by fixing broken door latches, decorating the restrooms better and having sanitary products, such as pads and tampons, in the restrooms, StuCo investigated ways to make this happen.

The group eventually partnered with the Wonder Women League, which is a United Way of Ellis County program that has a goal of "inspiring and empowering women to affect change in our community," according to its website. The group of women pursue volunteer work in the community and donate financial help to other organizations.

On March 8, StuCo received a donation of \$3,125 from the Wonder Women League to renew the girls' restrooms and supply free feminine hygiene products to students.

"I am most proud of my co-executives and officers in StuCo, specifically [senior] Danica Scheve, for bringing the idea of

the meetings to fill our student government role and running with it," senior StuCo president Hannah Eikenberry said. "I think it has improved the school environment, and anything that does that is worth doing."

After receiving the donation, StuCo added encouraging quotes on the walls of the restrooms, along with small shelves to hold phones or other accessories. In April, dispensers containing pads and tampons were added, too, and feedback has been extremely positive.

"The bathrooms are definitely more inclusive and very convenient," sophomore Ruby Fields said, while sophomore Chloe Adkins added, "The shelves in the bathrooms are really useful, and the tampons are nice, especially if you are forgetful."

In addition to having the products available for free, other students point out that it can save embarrassment and time.

"I think they are very beneficial for anyone who feels uncomfortable grabbing or asking someone for one in class in front of other people," junior Mika Zimmerman said.

Sophomore Tori Miller added, "I think it's really good because girls who need them have easy access to them now. Also, if someone ended up needing something, they don't have to run back to the classroom; they're already there."



Photo by Rylee Burd (Indian Call)

NEW DISPENSERS

In three restrooms at Hays High School, students have access to free feminine products, courtesy of Student Council's partnership with the Wonder Women League.

World Language Club hosts year-end celebration

By Justin Houchen
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World Language Club invited students, staff members and community members to its end-of-the-year party on Tuesday, May 2 in the Foreign Language Department hallway and classrooms.

The event started at 5 p.m. and concluded around 8 p.m., and it was free of charge.

"We had a lot of plans this year that fell through, but the beginning-of-school party and end-of-school party were the main ones that we wanted to do," sophomore Emma-Louise Bollig said. "And, because all the other plans fell through, we were like, 'Let's just make this one party really happen.' And, that's why we planned it."

At the party, the World Language Club and attendees provided foods from different cultures, including a beef and beans dish, chips and salsa, a curry dish, pretzels and two potato dishes – including one that was a dessert made with potatoes made by sophomore Ian Henderson, who said it was Scottish.

The club also had crafts, games and karaoke for participants to do at the event.

"I jumped from place to place; I watched people do karaoke, I made a bracelet and I played soccer outside," freshman Hailie Whitmer said. "But, honestly, my favorite part was probably just hanging out with my friends."

World Language Club was started at the end of the 2021-2022 school year by

three students, senior Rylie Fairbank, junior Shanti Holm and junior Everett McClure, in order to provide opportunities for students to learn new languages, other than German or Spanish, which are the only languages Hays High offers.

Club members have learned languages, such as American Sign Language (ASL), French, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin and others, by using programs like "Duolingo." And, they have hosted guest speakers and have attended events at the Hays Public Library about once a month.

"[ESL teacher] Moises De Lima was my favorite because he taught me the most about his particular language, his story and his culture," Fairbank said. "It was like a mini-Portuguese lesson."

FACULTY

CLOSING THEIR CAREERS

Four staff members opt to retire after long careers at Hays High School

By Eric Lucio
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a/v communications instructor **DAN BALMAN**

What was your reason for your decision to retire?

"I have always loved education, and I have been doing it for 31 years. I thought, 'You know, it would

be a good idea if someone else, maybe younger than I, comes in with a new vision for the students to introduce them to some new things.'"

How do you feel you have impacted the community of Hays throughout your career?

"It's not about me; it's about the students. It's all about building relationships and not about 'sit down and get to work, and make sure this is done by this time.' You



have to develop relationships and get to know the kids and listen to them! We got great kids, and that's what it is all about... I love them, I am proud of them and I will miss them."

What are your plans for life after retirement?

"I am not going to do anything for a few months; I'm just going to relax and take some time for myself. I think my brother and I are going to do a little traveling, but I don't really have plans right now. Maybe I'll look at new things in January, but for now, I'm just going to refocus on my life and sit back, relax and enjoy it."

english instructor **ALICIA BRUNGARDT**

What was your reason for your decision to retire?

"My family encouraged me to try new things, and they said I am at a point now where

I can do that. I have been doing this for 30 years, so I thought that it's time to try something new."

What are some of your most defining or proudest moments as a teacher at Hays High School?

"Things that really stick with me are the times when my students have finally understood something that was hard [for them] in the



beginning, and the people that I work with are great people. I have been fortunate enough to work here long enough to watch everyone grow."

What are your plans for life after retirement?

"I have absolutely no idea! I have a part-time photography business that I do on the side, so I will be doing that, at least some of the time, and I will probably find a part-time job. And, I will hang out with my grandchild coming next fall, and I will spend time with my family."

orchestra instructor **JOAN CRULL**

What was your reason for your decision to retire?

"I really, really love teaching, but I have grandchildren that live in China, Chicago, New York, Denver and Michigan, and I never have free weekends with this job. I am going to teach at home, giving private lessons, so I can make my own schedule, be free to travel and see my family!"

What are some of your most defining or proudest moments as a teacher at Hays High School?

"I have had amazing, amazing students that are kind-hearted, they work



hard and they are just really fun. I have so much fun with the students!"

Since being a music teacher is such a big part of your life, how are you going to stay involved in the Hays High community once you retire?

"I will be very involved in music – teaching private lessons, accompanying for solos and staying involved in music at my church. Of course, [what I will miss most] is the kids; they are really wonderful. And, [I will miss] my colleagues, especially the other music teachers. But, I'm not moving to Mars; I will still be around and will see people."

science instructor **LYNN ZIMMERMAN**

What was your reason for your decision to retire?

"This was not on my radar at the beginning of the school year, but I lost both of my parents last semester, and we lost another parent recently. My husband and I decided that there are other things that we would like to do, and with 43 years of teaching, I know I will miss my students and staff, but there's a lot of other things out there that I would like to do."

What are you going to miss the most about working at Hays High?

"I love my students; they give me so much energy. As



I joke with other people, I say, 'I'm probably going to probably going to age really fast once I leave,' because I feel like my students energize me. And, I am going to miss

the staff; I have a lot of close relationships with some of our science teachers."

What are your plans for life after retirement?

"I told my husband, 'You better get your passport because we are going to travel!' I want to see Ireland, Australia and the Galapagos Islands, I want to go to Europe and I want to travel the United States. I do photography, but I just want to do that for myself now."

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FACILITIES

Construction of new high school building to begin this summer



Images courtesy of DLR Group

By Meg Taggart

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Since USD 489 voters passed a \$143.5 million bond last May, discussions about the building designs and the added traffic have been happening for the past year.

In the bond, the main project is building a new high school east of the current high school, along with renovating the current high school to be the middle school, renovating Hays Middle School into an elementary school, renovating Wilson Elementary School into the district administration building and Westside and Lincoln Elementary School buildings.

“As soon as the bond passed, we hit the ground running and just really started designing the building and working with contractors,” the district’s Public Relations Director Chrisy Crough said. “We are excited to start breaking ground in May after school gets out, to work on the additions and internal renovations.”

During the summer, superintendent Ron Wilson, along with 10 administrators and teachers, toured schools designed by the same company that USD 489 is working with, the DLR Group.

After touring other schools, the high school staff started discussions about what their needs and wants were, meeting with DLR Group multiple times throughout this school year.

In the final plan, which the Board of Education approved at its meeting on April 10, the two-story high school will contain a large commons area, a modern media center, a performing arts auditorium, multiple group study areas for departments and state-of-the-art facilities for Audio/Visual Communications, Family and Consumer Science and other departments. It will also include two gymnasiums, a weight room and a wrestling room, in addition to the outdoor athletic areas.

With the design development completed, the district is working with

DLR Group on construction documents, with the bid process for the building project starting on June 5. After bids are submitted and accepted, contractors will start construction on July 15, with the campus set to be done on May 29, 2025.

In addition to the building itself, the district is working with the City of Hays concerning traffic. After a traffic study, the city determined it will add a roundabout to the intersection of 27th Street and Canterbury Drive to help with traffic flow from Hays Medical Center, Hays High School and Hays Middle School in the future. Also, 13th Street from Canterbury east to Commerce Parkway will be changed to a three-lane street with three-foot shoulders. Construction is set to start in the spring of 2024.

“The facilities and learning environments that the new school will offer is going to give the kids of Hays a jump start and give them the foundation they need to continue their lives after high school,” Crough said.



School attempts to curb student vaping by adding new detectors

By Tavia Wynn-Coffman

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This year at Hays High School, the school installed vaping detectors in some of the student restrooms to combat the problem of students vaping during the school day.

“We have a lot of feedback from our stakeholders, including staff, students and the community members,” principal Shawn Henderson said. “This is a broad safety concern throughout the community and nation. We have felt the need to be as proactive as possible to keep the students safe.”

Like other schools in the area and in the conference, the district decided to install “vape” detectors in some student restrooms. The detectors work by having sensors that detect vaping particles, down to fractions of a micron. Most detectors can also use algorithms to “learn” when vaping is likely to occur and can notify administrators when vaping is occurring.

Originally, the administration had the vape detectors added

to a few bathrooms in the fall; however, the day that they were installed, they were vandalized once students discovered them.

After Spring Break, though, the administration had maintenance crews add new vape detectors that were installed within the walls, making them more difficult to see and to access and leading to more students being caught while vaping in restrooms.

“We have realized through countless conversations that our school needs to engage in cessation practices to assist those students who are addicted,” Henderson said.

While adding the high-tech vape detectors has not stopped all students from vaping at school, Henderson said that the overall goal is to help end students’ addiction to vaping.

“Our school is ready to have this conversation to keep students safe,” Henderson said. “The primary voice for this generation impacted by these products must be the students themselves. We have students here at Hays High who are ready to tackle issues that impact their life and their peers.”

By Madighan Norris
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“ChatGPT, what is artificial intelligence?” Microsoft defines AI as, “The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making and translation between languages.”

Simply put, AI is a computer program meant to provide knowledge and respond to questions, just as a human would.

One such program that has exploded in recent months is ChatGPT, or “Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer.” ChatGPT was released late in November of 2022, and according to *www.techradar.com*, it is the fastest growing consumer app in history, hitting more than 100 million users in just two months.

The program is able to produce human-like responses to complex questions and can even remember what the user said earlier in a conversation. In addition, ChatGPT can be used to write articles, essays, stories and even poetry.

What does this mean? Besides conspiracies about the new technology recording everything users say, one of the concerns surrounding AI is that program users, especially students, may develop a reliance on them. Along with this, teachers are disquieted about the honesty of the work that students may submit. This is because AI not only gives information, but compiles it also, so, what is stopping students from using AI to complete their work? Some other limitations of chatbot programs include the risk of receiving biased or inaccurate information.

“AI makes it harder for teachers to really know what a student’s product is,” English teacher Alicia Brungardt said. “We all have our methods for teaching, and most of the writing I assign happens in class. I like to see the bulk of it being created here at school. I like to see their writing process and style, so it’s easier to tell if a student’s work is really their work. I don’t need to read what AI creates; I need to read what my students create.”

Because of students’ abilities to now use AI programs for their writing assignments, some teachers have adapted their lessons.

“I’ve changed the strategies in assignments I give when it’s important to me with regards to the writing,” English teacher

Dave Buller said. “We do in-class essays, as well as use a lockdown browser, and that helps prevent students from using AI models.”

For next school year, the English Department is considering purchasing a subscription to *www.turnitin.com* to protect academic integrity. The site can detect if a submitted paper contains plagiarized work or has content directly from the internet or another student or is a resubmitted paper from oneself.

“There is a technology that we’re investigating that would integrate with Canvas that would review student papers and tell us if they’ve been generated by ChatGPT or a similar model,” Buller said. “It would also tell us if papers were plagiarized or if they’ve been submitted in previous years. We’re definitely considering that as an option for next year.”

Despite its disadvantages, ChatGPT and programs like it have some benefits, too. For example, the programs are always live, meaning they can produce consistent and updated material, free of human error. Second, AI is fast. It is able to analyze specific data and give an even more specific response in a short time period. Lastly, AI can be used as a model in the classroom.

“AI is a great way to show a student how an idea is developed,” Brungardt said. “It provides a great model, and I’ve used it in the work world multiple times. It can be very fluent and convenient, but only as an enhancement. We still need to know how to edit and tweak what AI writes and how to come up with our own products.”

Though relatively new, ChatGPT has already been integrated into other platforms. This April, the social media messaging app Snapchat installed a ChatGPT-powered AI called “MyAI” that appears in users’ friend feeds; non-premium users cannot remove the feature from their feed screen. What some worry about is that the app is mostly used by young people, as *www.statista.com* said that about 48 percent of people ages 15-25 used Snapchat in 2020.

According to *The New York Times*, AI is only going to get more advanced and more prevalent, with major companies like Google and Microsoft incorporating the technology into its programs.

“I think that as these new technologies can prove to be a very beneficial tool for us, but we just need to learn how to utilize them,” Buller said. “That being said, we don’t want these new technologies to take the place of our ability to think critically and deeply, as well as our ability to communicate well.”

“I DON’T NEED TO READ WHAT AI CREATES; I NEED TO READ WHAT MY STUDENTS CREATE.”

ENGLISH TEACHER ALICIA BRUNGARDT



Information from survey results

AI applications becoming more advanced, more common in education

By Jacob Wente & ChatGPT
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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an advanced technology that has revolutionized the way we live and work by using sophisticated algorithms and complex computer programs to simulate human intelligence and make decisions, solve problems and learn from experience. The technology has evolved over the years, and today, AI is used in various sectors, from healthcare to education.

AI works by analyzing data and finding patterns in it. AI algorithms receive input from the environment or data source, process the data and produce output. These outputs can be decision-making, prediction or recommendations.

“I think AI chats make it very easy for students to cheat on their homework, but they can also help students understand certain things that some students may have a hard time understanding, and AI can always answer the questions you have,” junior Grecia Enriquez said. The use of AI in schools is gaining popularity.

Applications can personalize learning for students, enhance educational quality and improve engagement and performance. AI systems can analyze data from student performance and behavior and provide insights into potential areas of improvement.

Moreover, AI can bring new dimensions to curriculum development and teaching methodologies. For example, AI-based applications can suggest content that suits a particular student’s learning style. Similarly, AI can recommend teaching strategies that are more effective with specific students or groups.

“I THINK AI CHATS MAKE IT VERY EASY FOR STUDENTS TO CHEAT ON THEIR HOMEWORK, BUT THEY CAN ALSO HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND CERTAIN THINGS...”
JUNIOR GRECIA ENRIQUEZ

AI systems can automate repetitive tasks, such as grading papers or conducting research, thereby freeing up time for educators to focus on more important tasks, such as teaching. With AI, educators can efficiently manage large amounts of data and tailor their instruction to better suit each student’s needs.

However, AI can also be harmful. For instance, the use of AI in grading can lead to a biased or unfair evaluation of students. Additionally, applications can collect sensitive student data, raising questions about the privacy and security.

In conclusion, AI is an advanced technology that has the potential to revolutionize education. The use of AI in education is still in its early stages, and it is critical to understand the potential benefits and drawbacks of this technology, especially in its impact on schools and students.

“Public access to AI has directly impacted public education, and my specific courses, for the better,” business teacher Silas Hibbs said. “It has forced me to become more creative, more evolved and more adaptative in my curriculum, while at the same time, allowing my students access to information

in a timely fashion. Let me be clear: AI is no substitute for human/expert intellect, reason or wisdom. Also, AI is *not* a substitute for students to understand fundamental writing, science, economic or mathematic skills. AI, like an automobile, is a versatile *tool* for efficiency, time-savings, problem-solving and critical thinking, if used with wisdom, discretion, virtue and high moral regard.”

Reporting was completed by a student, but the article was written by ChatGPT; it was only edited to comply with Associated Press style rules and edited for length to fit in the space provided.

Continuously developing technologies allow users to create

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Praises

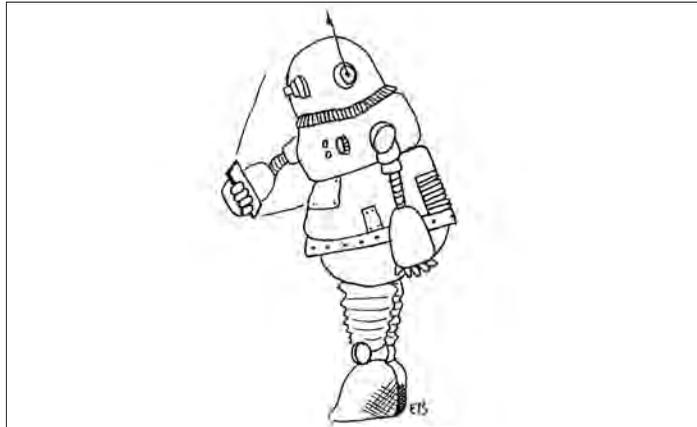
- Starbucks Sandwiches
- Student Businesses
- Snapchat AI
- Pink Starbursts
- Sonic Chicken Slingers
- Old Bruno Mars Songs
- Graduation
- Slime
- Naboo
- Rain
- Sundresses
- NCAA Transfer Portal

Protests

- Miller Moths
- Flat Earthers
- Instagram Reels
- Snapscore >1,000,000
- A&W/Long John Silver's Mix
- The Last Week of School
- Faux Leather Smell
- People Who Litter
- Gas Prices
- Meetings
- Carmex
- Pears

Staff Playlist

- Eleanor Bittel**
"A Traves del Vaso"
by Bando Los Sebastianes
- Feyden Hileman**
"All I Want Is You"
by Miguel, ft. J. Cole
- Justin Houchen**
"Hudson"
by Vampire Weekend
- Eric Lucio**
"4th Dimension"
by KIDS SEE GHOSTS
- Maddie Meis**
"Piledriver Waltz"
by Alex Turner
- Corey Musil**
"Summer"
by Calvin Harris
- Madighan Norris**
"Beauty School"
by Deftones
- Kale Schwien**
"Homecoming"
by Kanye West
- Meg Taggart**
"Etude No. 2"
by Philip Glass
- Jake Went**
"Nectar of the Gods"
by Lana Del Rey
- Tavia Wynn-Coffman**
"Young Girls"
by Bruno Mars
- Jessica Augustine**
"Rescued"
by Foo Fighters



Cartoon by Eleanor Bittel

Society must be responsible in creating artificial intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has taken the world by storm and has been made available on many platforms recently, and it seems like its impact is only going to grow in the future. From self-driving cars to intelligent chatbots, AI is revolutionizing the way we live and work. As students, it is important to recognize that AI will change aspects of our lives in ways that we cannot imagine now. However, responsibility must be used in developing and using AI, as we must consider the dangers that it could pose.

On the one hand, AI has the potential to solve some of the world's most pressing problems. For example, AI can be used to detect diseases, optimize energy consumption and predict natural disasters. Additionally, AI can automate menial and repetitive tasks, freeing humans to focus on more creative and fulfilling work.

On the other hand, AI poses significant risks. First, as more countries develop, it is apparent that humans do not need or want to work as much as they did in the past; this can be shown through job shortages in advanced fields, while minimum wage jobs cannot find help. AI is only going to increase this gap. Also, AI can be used for malicious purposes, such as cyber-attacks or the development of autonomous weapons, changing the way wars are fought. Finally, there is the risk of AI that could surpass human intelligence and become impossible to control.

To mitigate these risks, it is essential to take responsible approaches to AI development and use. For one, we need to invest in education about AI, along with its benefits and risks. By educating the public, people can understand how AI works, be able to audit its actions and can remain informed and engaged. Additionally, it is important AI is developed in a way that is consistent with our values as a society. This includes regulations around data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the use of AI in sensitive areas such as healthcare and criminal justice.

Like it was with the onset of the internet in the 1990s, it is impossible to fathom what our lives will look like in another 30 years because of AI. While AI has beneficial potential uses, it also has numerous detrimental ones, so the time to understand and to regulate AI is now. This means ensuring responsibility and transparency by its developers, education and involvement among the public and accountability and regulation by society. By doing this now, we can maximize the numerous benefits of AI while minimizing its risks and ensuring its alignment with our values and goals as a global society.

Opinion of the Guidon Staff

Agree: 11
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, 2021 and 2022; 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 adviser Jessica Augustine at jaugustine@usd489.com.

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LISTEN IN WITH ERIC

Kanye West albums follow his healing process through stages of grief

Despite controversial comments he has made, Kanye West has been one of the most successful artists of the 21st Century. He has always been known for his bold personality; however, many are unfamiliar with West's journey through the seven stages of grief displayed in his music following his mother's death.

After a debut trilogy of albums, West was one of the most popular rising stars in the world; however, on Nov. 10, 2007, tragedy struck when Donda West died following malpractice after surgery. Afterwards, people questioned what direction West's music would go, but no one could have predicted what was to come.

Stage 1: Shock

On Nov. 24, 2008, a year after Donda West's passing, West released "808s & Heartbreak." This project embodies the first stage of grief, shock, perfectly. After such an uplifting third album, West starts this project with a sad ballad, "Say You Will" and continues the theme of grief, with lyrics such as, "My head keeps spinning, I can't stop having these visions, I gotta get with it," in "Welcome to Heartbreak."

Stage 2: Denial

Two years later, West released "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" on Nov. 22, 2010, and a collaboration with Jay-Z, "Watch the Throne," on Aug. 8, 2011. These projects came out of nowhere, having empowering songs, like the last three years had not happened. West hides his pain using artists like Bon Iver, John Legend and Nicki Minaj on "MBDTF" and Beyonce and Frank Ocean on "Watch the Throne," but he really hides behind a façade.

Stage 3: Anger

After another two years, West released "Yeezus" on June 18, 2013. He immediately expresses his anger in the opening track, "On Sight," which is full of techno sounds and static noises, so you feel his irritation. He follows this with "Black Skinhead," with its low bass and heavy drums. However, at the end of the album, he displays a calmer approach to his last track, "Bound 2," which shows a transition into the next stage of his grief.

Stage 4: Bargaining

Following his exasperating project, West introduced "The Life of Pablo" on Feb. 14, 2016. He continues the transition from "Bound 2" into the first track,

"Ultralight Beam," a gospel song that praises God and pleas for Him to help the parents of those who were lost in the 2015 Paris terrorist attacks. After such a heavenly song, West makes a 180-degree shift, as in "Father Stretch My Hands," he speaks about the lavish and lustful celebrity lifestyle. This contemplation of following his faith or his fame is shown throughout the project, rapping lyrics such as, "I just feel like I'm the only one not pretending, I'm not out of control, I'm just not in [the media's] control," in "Saint Pablo," and "I will die for those I love, God, I'm willing to make this mission," in "FML." West's bargaining between these decisions is likely something he would have brought to his mom for her advice, but without her guidance, he transitions into

his next stage of grief, depression.

Stage 5: Depression

After releasing "The Life of Pablo," West was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. This showed in "ye," released on June 1, 2018. On the cover, mountains from Jackson Hole, Wyo., are shown with the text, "I hate being Bi-Polar, it's awesome." This 23-minute project expresses West's feelings that he is not as good of husband or father as he should be. In the final track, "Violent Crimes," West says, "Father, forgive me, I'm scared of the karma, because now I see women as something to nurture, not something to conquer," referring to his daughter. This shows a side of him that many missed over the years, where he speaks true to himself, not being radical for attention.

Stage 6: Reconstruction

West continued to spiral on social media, seemingly getting worse weekly. On Oct. 25, 2019, he released "JESUS IS KING." While the 27-minute album garnered heavy criticism and low popularity, he made the decision to follow his faith and correct his wrongs. This was his first project with no explicit tracks, and he incorporated religious elements, like a gospel choir and organ music. After this project, he took a break on social media and focused on his Adidas brand, "Yeezy," and his next album, "Donda."

Stage 7: Acceptance

On Aug. 21, 2021, West released "Donda," almost 15 years after his mother's death. In it, he laid out all his emotions for

what I believe should be his final album. He starts with "Donda Chant," in which a voice repeats "Donda," progressively slowing down, imitating Donda West's heartbeats in her final breaths.

Once the interlude ends, the art is on full display, as West goes through a condensed version of the seven stages of grief. On the first song, "Jail," Jay-Z features, referencing past West songs, such as "This might be the return of 'The Throne.'" Through the first half of the project, West's production encompasses shock, denial, anger and bargaining. On the 13th track, the tone changes, as Don Toliver features on "Moon," taking the listener to a different place, as West changes the harsh, unpredictable production into a beautiful, soft tone.

After this track, it seems as if West has found himself again and regained his groove musically. In the second-to-last track, he creates my favorite song he has made since his original trilogy, "Come to Life." In this track, West speaks of his depression, and he makes it easy to feel his pain and empathize for his loss. Halfway through the song, he includes an uplifting piano solo with a powerful bass, as he sings the chorus with everything that he has in him, including a verse saying, "You know where to find me, they cannot define me. So they crucify me, how so fazed when I leave? Come and purify me, come and sanctify me, you [are] the air that I breathe, the ultra-ultralight beam," and concluding with, "Floating on a silver lining, so when I'm free, I'm free." The track ends with instrumentals to allow everything to sink in for the listener. West ends the project with "No Child Left Behind," a song where he praises God for the miracles He has left for him.

Conclusion

Throughout the years, West has faced many troubles and made many mistakes; while I do not condone or excuse his actions, many people forget that some of the most creative minds are also the most troubled. In fact, I encourage you to think about how many "geniuses," such as John Lennon or Edgar Allan Poe, would have acted if they had social media. West was on top of the world when the most important person in his life passed, and he made poor decisions to cope, and he spiraled when his mental health declined. Despite his actions, there is no denying the greatness and the power of emotion that Kanye West put forth into his art.



By Eric Lucio
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FACILITIES

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Spring athletic teams start using new artificial turf on campus field

By Kale Schwien
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After being under construction for weeks to add artificial turf, on April 6, the existing Hays High School athletic field on campus was completed and was ready to be used for the girls soccer team's remaining games.

"Having the new field is so nice because our old field had bumps, and the new field also doesn't get muddy like our old field," sophomore Alysa Brown said.

In order to add the turf, which includes end zones in school colors of maroon and gold, along with new goal posts and new lights, the cost was around \$1 million, according to athletic director Lance Krannawitter.

"This will change a lot of things for our teams," Krannawitter said. "It is an all-weather field, so we won't have to cancel games due to rain or unplayable field conditions. There is also no watering or mowing, which ensures that the field is playable with watery conditions, especially for soccer."

In addition, the new turf for the athletic field will hopefully prevent some injuries, thanks to the flat surface and the materials used. That way, the players will not have to worry about practicing or playing on a hard, uneven surface.

But, the new field will not just be used for sports. The Hays High band will have a place to practice marching routines, and physical education classes will have another place for their activities.

"They [the marching band] now have a surface that is marked year-round to practice on in the late summer when they start to practice again," Krannawitter said. "Also, PE classes have been taking advantage of it."

Even with the existing field having turf added, construction for new athletic practice and competition areas will continue. With the bond issue that was passed in May 2022, new facilities for almost every sport will be built, along

with the new high school. Construction for the high school campus is scheduled to begin this summer on July 15 and to be completed for the start of the 2025-2026 school year – when the current freshmen will be seniors.

Included in the new high school design plan are a main field, a secondary field, a practice field and a softball field – all of which will have artificial turf. Outside will also be new tennis courts and new track and field areas. Within the school itself, it will contain two new gyms, a wrestling room and a weight room.

With all the facilities being on the campus, it eliminates the need for most teams to practice or to play elsewhere,

such as the varsity football team playing at Fort Hays State University or the softball team playing at Bickle-Schmidt Sports Complex. It also will hopefully draw more students to the competitions to support their peers.

"Our new campus will have three new fields, in addition to new tennis courts," principal Shawn Henderson said. "We will get a new fully turfed softball field with a visitor bullpen, too. Overall, this will be an amazing space for our teams to compete. My favorite part of the field is the flexibility it creates within the athletic programs."



Photo by Ava Schoenberger (Indian Call)

KICKING UP TURF

During a home game on the new turf athletic field, junior Arely Maldonado takes a shot at the goal while playing against Liberal on April 6. Crews completed the installation of the artificial turf in time for teams to use it this spring.



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ATHLETES
OF THE MONTH

Baseball



junior Derek Quach

"I enjoy sports because of the experiences that come with them. My favorite memory from high school baseball was when I pitched my first no-hitter."

Softball



junior Dezarae Schmidt

"Sports are important to me because they give me such a great environment around me as a player. I've had a lot of memories, but a personal one is being named First Team All-WAC [Western Athletic Conference] last spring."

RECORDS

Spring athletes breaking records this season

By Feyden Hileman
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Each season, almost every individual athlete strives to improve his or her own personal records. However, some athletes strive to go above and beyond to break school records, just like senior Keamonie Archie has done in boys track, sophomore Katie Linenberger has done in girls track and sophomore Izabel Schmidt has done in swimming this spring.

Archie recently surpassed senior Kyreese Groen's record for long jump, which Groen had set in spring of 2022 with a length of 22 feet, 6.75 inches. Archie achieved a new distance of 24 feet, 7.5 inches at the Indians' second meet this season in Pratt.

"It's a great milestone to hit," Archie said. "I'm extremely excited to have broken the record, and we still have a couple of meets left, so I'm extremely confident that, in that time, I will be able to break my own record as well."

Upon Archie breaking his school record, Groen said he was excited for his teammate.

"I love it," Groen said. "Keamonie has been working hard since he got here, waiting on opportunities like that one. It only pushes me to do more and work harder."



Photo by Katelyn Willemsen (Indian Call)

IN HER LANE

At the home girls swimming meet on April 24, sophomore Izabel Schmidt swims one of her freestyle races. Schmidt has broken numerous school records at this point in the season, including three freestyle records from 1995, 1999 and 2017 and one fly record from 2006.

Also in track, Linenberger has turned the girls high jump into a three-way tie for the school record. This season, Linenberger achieved a height of 5 feet, 4 inches to tie a school record held by two former Hays High students – Wendy Zimmerman from 2013 and Haley George from 2014.

"It feels great to have at least tied the record, but I still want to beat it," Linenberger said. "Hopefully, with the

hours I'm putting in, I can fully break it."

Finally, in the pool, Schmidt has also had a record-breaking season this year, just like last year, when she took the 50 freestyle school record of 25.07 seconds from Megan Hantla in 1999 with a time of 24.98 seconds and set the 100 freestyle school record with a time of 55.85 seconds and then secured a faster time of 54.41 at the state swim meet to set the record again.

This season, in the 50 freestyle, she broke her own school record with a time of 24.73 seconds; in the 200 freestyle, she broke Darcy Hantla's record from 1995 of 2:06.61 with a time of 2:03.57; and in the 500 freestyle, she broke Megan Flavin's record from 2017 of 5:47.69 with a time of 5:39.42.

Outside of freestyle, Schmidt also surpassed the school record for the fly that was set in 2006 by Hollie Rohn; Rohn had a time of 1:02.99, while Schmidt had a time of 1:01.73.

"Breaking multiple records feels very accomplishing, and it pushes me to break more," Schmidt said. "I think that I will be able to break some of my own records because I'm always trying and working extremely hard to improve and compete."

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Bald Bros

Group of teachers bonds over unique physical feature

By Maddie Meis
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A group of teachers has one unique trait that joins them together: being bald. While some men may be sensitive about losing their hair, teachers Matt Brooks, Cole Cherryholmes, Luke Lundmark, Alan Neal and Bryan Zollinger celebrate their style. In fact, the five even purchased matching shirts from Amazon for their school photos this fall. Here are the stories behind their lack of hair.

Brooks: "When I was coaching basketball in 2000, we went to state, and the guys said if they won the first-round game, they wanted to shave the head coach's head. He said no, so they said, 'What about Brooks because he's the assistant?' Since I was the lowest on the totem pole, I was shaved first. So, when I started shaving, I loved it, and I have been shaving it ever since."

Lundmark: "When I was 18, my hair took a vacation and forgot to take me. I was blessed with the genetic lottery of not having hair, and it turned from two rivers into one lake and then the lake turned into an ocean."

Neal: "In high school, I had a full head of very curly red hair. I got used to wearing my hair very short and kept it that way during college. In my late 20s, my students began letting me know I had a bald spot. That is part of the reason I love teaching high school students; they are happy to share their opinions of your hair style."

Zollinger: "In college, my hairline was already receding. I could've done a comb-over, but I started off with a crew cut with the clippers, and then somebody was like, 'Hey, why don't you try shaving it? You'll never go back.' So, I started shaving it, and I never went back. I have been bald since my junior year of college, so it's been around 30 years."

Identify the Bald Guy!



- Options:**
 Matt Brooks
 Cole Cherryholmes
 Luke Lundmark
 Alan Neal
 Tom Philip
 Matt Whitney
 Bryan Zollinger

Answers: Luke Lundmark, Bryan Zollinger, Alan Neal, Matt Brooks



Student Statistics

Have you ever used ChatGPT?
(in a poll of 60 students)

- 40% - "Yes, and frequently."
- 27% - "Yes, but only a few times."
- 17% - "No, and I don't want to."
- 13% - "No, but I've heard of it."
- 3% - "No, I've never heard of it."



Future Films

- May 9**
"The Tutor"
- May 12**
"Hypnotic"
"Knights of the Zodiac"
"The Mother"
- May 19**
"Fast X"
"Outpost"
"Stay Awake"
- May 22**
"Prehistoric Planet 2"
"We Might as Well be Dead"
- May 26**
"A Little Mermaid"
"About My Father"
"Close To Vermeer"
"The Machine"
- May 29**
"Reality"



Witty Wisecracks

- What kind of tree fits in your hand?**
A palm tree!
- How do we know the ocean is friendly?**
It waves!
- What did the little corn say to the mama corn?**
Where's pop corn?
- What do you do if you get rejected at the sunscreen company?**
Reapply.
- What does the sun drink out of?**
Sun-glasses.
- What do you call a Labrador at the beach in the summer?**
A hot dog.

ARTISTS OF THE MONTH



What is your chosen art medium?

"I do anything in the fine arts, mainly oil, watercolor and graphite."

Who do you look to for inspiration?

"I do mostly human anatomy, so I play into emotions and religious meanings."

What got you into art?

"I was always creative, but one day at my church when I was 10, we were painting this bird on a branch, and I couldn't wait for the green, so I grabbed the blue instead, and this old lady had said to a nun, 'Now that's a future artist.'"

What is your why?

"I create art because a thousand words can make a picture, and I want a piece of my mind to be an image for others to stare at."

What is your chosen art medium?

"My favorite medium is good old pencil and paper. You can't go wrong there."

Who do you look to for inspiration?

"I look up to Kenatro Miura. He's a Japanese manga artist who's done lots of different work."

What advice would you give to new artists?

"I would say to not be afraid to experiment. Trying new art styles and mediums is a great way to know what you're good at."

What is your why?

"I look at drawing as a fun pastime. It's very relaxing and helps me destress."



junior
Jaiden Desaire