

Vol. 98  
Issue 1

# The Guidon

October  
2023

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## FAST FASHION

Retailers sell cheap, trendy items,  
but create numerous problems  
Pages 6-7



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### ON THE COVER



Cover photo illustration by Eric Lucio

## ORGANIZATIONS

# Newly formed organization provides all students with time to share their faith, engage in activities

By Reagan Bates  
25rbates@usd489.com

With the start of the new school year came the emergence of Hays High School's Fellowship of Christian Athletes club.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes, or FCA, is a nationwide organization that is open to all students, not just athletes, to provide them with a space to talk about their faith.

Sponsors Dave Buller, who teaches English, and Jill Schaben, who is the library secretary, introduced FCA to Hays High students in the spring semester of last school year, but the group has become more active this year.

"I was approached by a student who was interested in starting a Bible study group at the high school," Schaben said. "The student was referred to me by their counselor, who knew I had sponsored a similar club a few years ago."

The club kicked off the school year with a Fun Night on Sunday, Aug. 27. With 63 students in attendance, the event consisted of games, speakers, worship and free snow cones.

FCA also hosted "See You at the Pole" on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at their normal meeting time of 7:15 a.m. Forty students and the FCA sponsors gathered by Hays High's flagpole for this nationwide event to pray for their school.

"We had a great turnout at the 'See You at the Pole' event," Buller said. "Students gathered in groups and spent time in prayer."

FCA also keeps busy with weekly Huddle meetings that take place every Thursday at 7:15 a.m. in the Hays High library. After starting the meeting with worship, students break up into small groups to study a story from the Bible, then prayer concludes the meeting.



Photo by Ally Crotinger (Indian Call)

### FUN NIGHT

Students gather at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Fun Night on Aug. 27 at the football field on campus, as club sponsor Dave Buller and staff member Vinny Walker speak to the group. Sixty-three students attended the back-to-school event for the new club.

"We love the weekly Huddle meetings, as they are great times to get together with others and get encouraged," Buller said.

Student leaders include seniors Ethan Marshall, Brendan Stults and Nathan Ward; juniors Ally Crotinger, Cooper L. Johnson and Taylor Sterling; and sophomore Raegan Brewer.

"My main goal for FCA is to use it to help bring other people to God and inspire them with my faith," Crotinger said.

Crotinger said the club members are excited for upcoming events, including the FCA Fall Conference at Webster Conference Center in Salina on Nov. 11 and 12.

"I am looking forward to growing numbers and seeing what God can do for FCA this year," Crotinger said.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

In September, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced that senior Addison Otte qualified as a National Merit Semifinalist based on her PSAT scores.

**What was your reaction to finding out you are a semifinalist?**

"I was very surprised. I didn't expect to make it, especially because I didn't really study."

**What does it mean to you to achieve this?**

"It means a lot. It's crazy to think that I scored in the top 1 percent of high schoolers in the country."

**Will this possibly provide any opportunities or open any doors not previously opened?**

"Yes, it will. I can now apply to more scholarships, and I was offered a full-ride scholarship at a college due to my National Merit qualification."



senior  
Addison Otte

**Now that you are a semifinalist, is there added pressure to become a National Merit Finalist?**

"A little bit, but most people are just impressed that I got this far, so for me, becoming a finalist is just for fun to see if I can actually do it."

**What are your plans going forward regarding college and career paths?**

"I want to major in architecture and build residential housing."

**Who is your inspiration?**

"I am really inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright; he was a talented architect who created some really beautiful houses and had a very distinct style."

**What advice would you give to someone else who wants to achieve being a semifinalist?**

"Just work hard and never count yourself out. You never know what you are capable of achieving."

## CHANGES

# MAKE AN E-HALL PASS

## School implements new electronic pass system for students to travel

By Maddie Meis  
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White plastic cards on black lanyards and colored paper forms are things of the past, while electronic passes take their place.

This year, Hays High School altered its pass system. Instead of using plastic cards for teacher hall passes or paper forms for PRIDE Time passes, the school switched to an app called E-Hall Pass by a company called Securly.

"This is a significant improvement compared to the previous methods, which didn't allow all staff members to easily monitor student locations," said Family and Consumer Science teacher Nicole Linenberger, who has helped train staff members on the new program.

Since this program is new to staff and students, both groups were trained on it, with staff members completing a video EdPuzzle during their start-of-the-year in-services and with students watching a video during the first week of school.

To use the app on their laptops or their phones, students can complete "now" passes, which are immediate passes, or "appointment" passes, which are future passes for at least 30 minutes in advance. When making a pass, students have to complete three boxes: two drop-down boxes that have a list of all the teachers and all the rooms to set their departure and their destination and one text box to add the reason for passing in some cases.

If the student is passing to a staff member, the destination person must approve the pass before the student can pass; if the student is passing to a general location, the initial teacher approves the pass. Once a pass is approved, a timer starts, and it stops when the student returns.

While using the app is much different from last year, many staff members said they enjoy the system.

"Some of the advantages that provide peace of mind for teachers include the ability to quickly ascertain the location of students, especially during unforeseen situations, such as lockdowns or building evacuations," Linenberger said. "With this system, I can check a device to determine which students are in each bathroom and track the whereabouts of my students, ensuring they are all accounted for."

Another positive aspect is, instead of staff members having to pause their current tasks to sign forms or to question students about where they need to go, they just look at the dashboard on their computer or on their phone and accept

or decline the pass. For the main office, it also saves time, according to student receptionist Laycie Haas.

"It makes entry in the morning a lot easier because I can type a lot quicker than I can write," Haas said. "They usually get in and out of the office quickly."

While overall, staff members said they like having the app, there have been some issues with using it.

"One of the aspects I'm less fond of is the inability to create recurring appointments tailored to specific Gold or Maroon days," Linenberger said. "Unfortunately, this feature hasn't been updated to accommodate schools with block scheduling."

Along with frustration from some staff, there has also been dislike for the app from many students.

"I wish they would bring back paper passes because a lot of teachers and students don't even know how to use it properly, neither do I," junior Slade Salmans said. "I only have it on my laptop, so it is annoying to pull out my laptop every time I need it."



Information from survey of 202 students

## Administration makes various other additions, changes for this year

By Kennedy Fischer  
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Every year, new changes take place at school, and it is no different this year.

The school purchased \$100,000 worth of new furnishings for the cafeteria, including seven booths that can seat eight people per booth, 18 circular tables that can seat five people per table and 14 high top tables that can seat eight people per table. So, comfortably, the Cafeteria Commons can seat about 250 students, and there are four lunch periods to split the number of students eating at a time.

The quality of the seating is better than the old seating, which was white folding tables and metal folding chairs.

"We wanted to get something new for the kids that won't get to attend the new school," principal Shawn Henderson said. "I believe the students like it more."

There have also been rule changes to the cafeteria; in the past, students had to put away the chairs when they had last lunch, which they do not have to do now, and students last year could pull up as many chairs as would fit at a table, whereas there is now a specific number of students allowed at each table.

Many students like the new setup, but others say it hard to find a table when having lunch with a bigger group.

"The different seats make it a little competitive and annoying to find a table," sophomore Bryson Weber said.

Another change is that classroom hallways are closed until 7:35 a.m., so students can sit in the Cafeteria Commons or stay in the Event Commons until the doors open.

In the past, halls were opened at 7 a.m. so students could see their teachers or work on homework before classes started. Now, if students need to see teachers prior to 7:35 a.m., they have to

make an appointment to have the teachers come get them from the Commons areas.

Henderson said the administration made this change for safety reasons, so that students were not blocking the halls when they gathered together and were not sitting in the halls and causing tripping hazards, and because, when the new high school opens, the students will remain in the larger Commons areas until 7:35 a.m. also.

"Our whole reason for this is to make the school a better and safer place for students and to have students want to come to school," Henderson said.

## STAFF

## District partners with police to add School Resource Officer

By Justus Nelson  
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Hays High School has seen many changes this year, from the new cafeteria furnishings to an electronic pass system, but one of the biggest changes came on Aug. 28, when Officer Austin Spencer arrived for his first day as the new School Resource Officer (SRO) – a position that the district has not had since 2015.

Before making the shift to working as the Hays SRO, Spencer served as a patrol officer for one year with the Hays Police Department (HPD), having also worked two years in Lawrence as a patrol officer and with the Douglas County Youth Services as a truancy intern.

The position of SRO suits Spencer, who

graduated in 2017 with dual bachelor's degrees from the University of Kansas in Psychology and Applied Behavioral Science, with an emphasis on Juvenile Justice.

"I always had an interest in law enforcement, but I wasn't quite sure if I wanted to go down that path," Spencer said. "There were offers to be a case manager, but after discovering what the job really contained, I didn't want to do that job."

Luckily for Hays High, Spencer found his way to the SRO position, which is funded in part by a state Safe and Secure Schools grant and with the remainder by USD 489 and the HPD.

"I have really enjoyed building relationships with the students; it honestly makes my day," Spencer said.

During the school day, staff and students can find Spencer greeting students outside in the mornings, monitoring the halls during passing periods, supervising the cafeteria during lunches or working in his office, which is inside the main office; he also is available to the other district schools throughout the day, if needed.

"He is a good addition to the school parking lot, directing traffic and maintaining a safer driving experience," senior Maddie Meis said.



Officer  
Austin Spencer

## School adds staff members as student numbers grow

By Justin Houchen  
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Accompanying the surge of freshmen this year, 12 new faculty and staff members have joined the Hays High School family this year, six of which are featured here, while the rest will be in the next issue.

### Dawn Bush – Special Education

"I have a bachelor's degree in Special Education and a master's degree in Educational Leadership. I have been teaching for 22 years. I love the way Hays High is so welcoming and the positivity I feel here."

### Alyssa Chappell – School Counselor

"This is my first year as a school counselor. We moved to Hays from Wisconsin while I was working on my master's degree since we have family in the area. I love the students and staff at Hays High!"

### Jake Dechant – Audio/Video Communications

"I came to Hays High because I wanted to teach in the program that I loved when I was a student here and to return home to be around friends and family with my wife. My favorite part would be simply working in the place that I enjoyed as a student."

### Thomas Decker – Science

"I have a master's in Education and a bachelor's in English. This is my fifth year of teaching, and I have taught at Quinter, Plainville and Hays. I wanted to be at Hays High to get to be part of my community."

### Paul English – Social Science

"Professionally, I wanted to come to Hays High because this is a very impressive and innovative district that I am excited to be a part of. I want to be a part of this new transition to the new school and make an impact for the students of this community."

### Jessica Hakoda – Music/Speech

"Although this is my third year in Hays, it is my first year at Hays High. I love teaching at the secondary level and want to help students find their voice through both music and communication skills."

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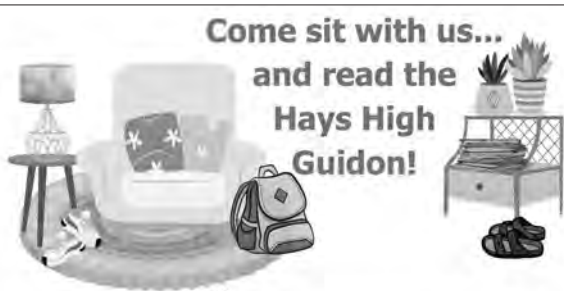
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## BRANDING

## Staff, community collaborate to create updated image for Hays High School

By LeRoy Goodspeed  
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After controversy last year about using the Indian for Hays High School, the USD 489 Board of Education determined that the school would keep the Indian as its mascot but recommended that a new logo be used and that specific school colors be set. Therefore, over the summer, a group of staff members and community members, led by art teacher Heath Meder, gathered to develop new branding guidelines.

The rebranding process began in June, with stakeholders being invited to one of three meetings on June 26 and June 27, at which they could volunteer to be on the smaller design team. Following the initial meetings, the designated design team met three times and communicated by email to view Meder's drafts, provide feedback on his designs and determine the colors and logos for Hays High.

The logo transformation involved a shift from using a human likeness of an Indian in a headdress, to a symbol that better represented the school's uniqueness. To develop the logo and a font to accompany it, Meder researched the Native American tribes that once inhabited this region of western Kansas, seeking to capture their culture with details included in the logo.

"After researching Native Americans that lived around Ellis County, I used examples of their artwork and beadwork and implemented that into the logo," Meder said. "The use of the arrowhead was inspired by the weapons they used. Researching the history about the Native Americans in the local area was important to my creation of the logo."

In terms of the school colors, Meder selected options from a Pantone color book, which has codes for every color so that they can be printed and displayed the same universally. The design team decided upon the same maroon used by Mississippi State University, which is Pantone 7421C, and the same gold used by Arizona State University, which is Pantone 123C.

"We went through many hours at meetings, sitting down and getting opinions on which colors match the school the best," Meder said.

After the committee approved the changes in the logo and colors, Meder and principal Shawn Henderson presented the new branding guide to the Board of Education at its meeting on July 17, where board members reacted positively overall.

At the meeting, Henderson said, "After this evening, the whole community will have a brand and logo and be able to say, 'Yes, that is Hays High.'"

Following that, Hays High quickly incorporated the new logos and

colors into various items, including apparel and merchandise for organizations and teams, graphic coverings to the school's main entrance windows and updates to the school's website and stationery.

With the new high school starting construction soon, the logo and the colors also will be used throughout the building.

"It's nice to have an official logo because it's something we have never had before," Meder said. "When you use random Indian heads for a logo, it leads to misconceptions about Native Americans. It's nice to stay away from that and to use something that is unique to Hays High. We created something Hays High can be proud of and own for themselves."



Logos by Heath Meder

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# FAST FASHION

Online retailers offer affordable, trendy options, but contribute to environmental and social issues

By Eleanor Bittel  
25ebittel@usd489.com

“Fast fashion,” the trend of producing and consuming clothing pieces at a rapid pace, has become a significant part of younger generations’ lifestyles, often driven by social media and influencer culture. Fast fashion, through retailers like Shein or Temu, offers affordable clothing options, allowing people to keep up with the latest trends at the lowest prices.

“Fast fashion is derived from ‘fast food’ and is used to describe clothes that are produced quickly and inexpensively to fit the latest trends, usually copied directly from the runway,” according to Solene Rauturier of Mindful Digital Marketing.

Senior, Brenlynn Albers says, “I started shopping on Temu at the beginning of the school year, and I would say I have spent at least \$800 on purchases from there.”

CONSUMER ADVANTAGES

One of the main advantages of fast fashion is its affordability. Fast fashion retailers offer trendy clothing at lower price points, making current styles more accessible to a wider range of people. This allows individuals to experiment with different styles and stay up to date with the latest trends without breaking the bank. Fast fashion is also versatile. Brands often release collections that cater to a variety of tastes and preferences.

“I like to buy hoodies, shirts and sometimes shorts off of Shein,” sophomore Antonio Martinez said. “Fast fashion is just a personal preference.”

While fast fashion can be affordable and versatile, critics have pointed out negative aspects of the popular industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

First, the manufacturers that produce fast fashion and the retailers that promote fast fashion have a negative impact on the environment. With many clothing items being made from synthetic materials, the industry uses substantial amounts of resources, including water, energy and chemicals. According to one study, the fast fashion industry is responsible for 20 percent of industrial water pollution, which was published in “The State of Fashion 2023: Holding Onto Growth as Global Clouds Gather” in 2022.

Not only does the actual production of the clothing

cause pollution, but also, the quick disposal of the items also affects pollution, when they are out of style or are thrown away into public landfills because of lower quality. According to the United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, the fast fashion industry is responsible for up to 8 percent of global carbon emissions through manufacturing and disposal.

SOCIAL IMPACTS

This leads to another negative aspect, which is the promotion of a culture of overconsumption. Since the clothing is produced cheaply and quickly, it oftentimes sacrifices higher quality for poor durability and more affordability. This means that garments are more likely to wear out and end up in the trash. In the United States alone, an estimated 11.3 million tons of textile waste – equivalent to 85 percent of all textiles – end up in landfills every year, according to [www.earth.org](http://www.earth.org).

And, with trends constantly changing and emerging, people are encouraged to buy more and more and discard it faster and faster.

“Fast fashion is useful in some ways, but their items are normally low quality,” Martinez said.

LABOR ISSUES

A final negative issue with fast fashion production is that many brands outsource the actual manufacturing to developing countries and exploit their labor costs, where workers earn low wages and face poor conditions. The fast fashion industry employs approximately 75 million factory workers worldwide, but it is estimated that less than 2 percent of them make a living wage, according to George Washington University Law School.

NEW MOVEMENTS

Because of these concerns, there is growing awareness among the younger generations about the need for sustainable and ethical fashion, including buying from responsible brands and promoting fair labor standards in the fashion industry.

Many young people are also embracing “slow fashion,” which focuses on quality and durability from sustainable fashion brands, or are opting for second-hand clothing from thrift stores.

“I don’t like fast fashion because it takes too long to ship, and I think I can get better quality clothes from more reliable brands,” junior Alyse Zimmerman said.

“I DON’T LIKE FAST FASHION BECAUSE... I THINK I CAN GET BETTER QUALITY CLOTHES FROM MORE RELIABLE BRANDS.” JUNIOR ALYSE ZIMMERMAN



fast fashion



# SLOW FASHION

Thrift shopping provides a more sustainable, more unique way for consumers to buy clothing

By Delia Dixon  
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As carbon dioxide levels continue to rise to the point of serious concern, the planet continues to face the disastrous effects of climate change, which “fast fashion” clothing manufacturers contribute to in garment production. Thrift shopping, however, is a more environmentally friendly way to shop.

During the COVID pandemic, thrifting became trendy. While one reason was to find more affordable clothes, another reason was for the sake of the environment. As fast fashion takes over the industry, thrifting is a way to reduce contributions to carbon emissions while being fashionable.

Freshman Juliet Gross is an advocate for thrift shopping. She often thrifts with friends to spend time together while shopping for unique clothing.

“I think that going thrifting is a better option because it is more sustainable, lessens the amount of clothing in landfills and gives you authentic, old-school styles,” Gross said.

As global warming worsens, change is essential. While it may seem like too big of a feat for anyone to alter the outcome of this issue, thrifting could be a small change to reduce a person’s carbon footprint.

“The environmental benefits include not nearly as many byproducts, such as packaging, plastic and the environmental effects of factories,” sophomore Connor Werth said.

Werth started thrifting about two years ago.

“A friend recommended checking out the Arc after getting coffee,” Werth said. “I thought it was an easy way to get clothes for cheap.”

Not only is thrifting a simple, sustainable method to find affordable clothing, but it also allows people to discover their own unique sense of style, as thrifting can lead to more creativity and individuality.

“I think thrifting is a better option opposed to retail because it brings a uniqueness to my style, and it’s still trendy without copying others,” Werth said.

Werth predicts that thrifting will become more mainstream, and he encourages others to try thrifting as well. Two popular places in Hays are the Arc and Goodwill. Online thrifting is also an option, with websites such as Depop and Poshmark.

“Look for clothes you feel confident in,” Werth said. “You’d be surprised how many name brands make it into thrift stores.”

Another benefit of thrifting is the personality that second-hand clothes can hold. Many major retailers have racks of identical copies of mass-produced items. These pieces lead to the suppression of originality when it comes to unique styles.

“My favorite thing that I’ve bought is a jean jacket from the ‘80s with some hand-embroidered things on it,” Gross said. “I like it so much because I feel like it has a story to it.”

THE AVERAGE PERSON WEARS 20% OF THEIR CLOTHING 80% OF THE TIME

PLASTIC-BASED MATERIALS MAKE UP 60% OF FAST FASHION CLOTHING ITEMS

ON AVERAGE, APPROXIMATELY 85% OF TEXTILE ITEMS WILL BE TRASHED

#BUYTODAY #TRASHTOMORROW



## Praises

- Pickles
- Wolves
- Instagram Reels
- QuikTrip Mac & Cheese
- Gilmore Girls
- Soft Pretzels

## Protests

- Temu
- Responding to Snapchats
- Yeezy Foam Runners
- Resetting Passwords
- A Big Bite of Pepper
- EdPuzzle

## Staff Playlist

### Reagan Bates

"Girlfriend in a Coma"  
by The Smiths

### Eleanor Bittel

"Special"  
by SZA

### Delia Dixon

"cowboy like me"  
by Taylor Swift

### Kennedi Fischer

"we fell in love in october"  
by girl in red

### LeRoy Goodspeed

"I Had A Vision"  
by Masego

### Feyden Hileman

"Everlong"  
by Foo Fighters

### Justin Houchen

"Sixteen Tons"  
by Geoff Castellucci

### Eric Lucio

"Close to You"  
by Rihanna

### Maddie Meis

"Love"  
by Lana Del Rey

### Justus Nelson

"Undun"  
by The Guess Who

### Madighan Norris

"Violet"  
by Hole

### Kale Schwien

"Tyler Herro"  
by Jack Harlow

### Clare Tholstrup

"Psycho Killer"  
by The Talking Heads

### Jake Wente

"PURE/HONEY"  
by Beyonce

### Tavia Wynn-Coffman

"Teenage Dream"  
From "Glee"

### Jessica Augustine

"Break Your Heart"  
by The Gaslight Anthem



Cartoon by Eleanor Bittel

## Our society needs to control issues with overconsumption

Newer, faster, bigger and better. Americans, as a whole, have always had a problem with overconsumption. Everyone wants the newest clothes, a faster car, a bigger house, a better phone and so on. While wanting nice things is not a crime, most people are not aware of their own commercial gluttony or what causes it. Overconsumption does not just burn a hole in consumers' pockets, but it has many global impacts.

Put simply, overconsumption is the purchase of goods or products to an excess amount – more than what an individual or even the Earth can provide.

One area in which overconsumption is a rather serious problem is within the current retail industry. Within the past few years, websites such as Poshmark, Shein, Temu and more have been increasing in their popularity among American consumers. Sites like these promote the purchase of low-priced, but also low-quality, items like clothing. Manufacturers for these companies produce garments at grueling speeds in sweatshop conditions in foreign countries, just so consumers can keep up with changing trends and emerging styles.

Beyond the conditions for the workers, there are other issues with prioritizing profits over quality and sustainability. Creation of garments produces major air and water pollution, and cheap textile items do not decompose easily in landfills, meaning overconsumption also harms our planet.

And, overconsumption leads consumers to get stuck in the loop of buying new and throwing away fast. Beyond just clothing, included in this problematic trend are other practices, like building excessively large houses, driving every trip rather than using environmentally friendly modes of transportation or even buying plastic utensils for just one use.

The big question is, why does society like to overconsume? In our opinion, the answer is simple: a curse disguised as a blessing that derived from the early 2000s, social media. Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and X are all popular platforms that promote overconsumption. When celebrities, influencers or even our friends post, we see all the things we do not yet have in our own lives. We want to belong; therefore, we buy more to fit in.

Rather than blindly following the latest trends or buying the cheapest clothing on fast fashion sites, we should consider the long-term effects of our short-term decisions. Instead of continuing to overconsume everything, perhaps we should learn to be satisfied with what we have right in front of us.

### Opinion of the Guidon Staff

Agree: 15

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, 2021 and 2022. 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](mailto:jaugustine@usd489.com).

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# LISTEN IN WITH ERIC

## Newest Travis Scott album can be overwhelming, but shows creativity

Undoubtedly, one of the biggest moments of the summer in the music world was the release of rapper and producer Travis Scott's album, "UTOPIA."

Born Jacques Webster, Scott chose his name when he entered the rap scene in 2008 because of his favorite uncle, Travis, and because of the inspiration that Scott Mescudi, also known as Kid Cudi, had on him. After signing to Kanye West's label in 2012, Scott became one of the most famous artists on the planet, with album after album skyrocketing on the charts.

Upon the release of the "UTOPIA" album on July 28, Scott used multiple promotional tactics, building massive hype about the project. When the album was officially released, it took the hip-hop world by storm, selling 496,000 copies in the first week and amassing more than one billion streams on Spotify alone in just a month.

"Utopia is something that people feel is so far-fetched and out of reach, some perfect state of mind," Scott said. "But

you create it yourself. There are people who achieve utopia every day. They may not be the richest people with the dopest cribs, but it's a utopia wherever they are, and that's the most you can have."

Throughout the album, Scott explores obscure musical techniques, extremely similar to Kanye West's abstract project, "Yeezus" from 2013. Many fans have speculated that some tracks from "UTOPIA" may have been recorded with West or may have used some of West's old demos to create the music.

In the album, Scott also shows off his star power by gathering some of the most famous artists to feature on his album, including Bad Bunny, Beyonce, Drake, SZA, The Weeknd and many others, including his inspiration, Kid Cudi.

While I love the creativity and obscurity of this album, I do not necessarily enjoy every track. I have never called myself a Travis Scott fan, and while I do like the album, I think there are multiple

skips on it. Although the songs might fit within the album's theme, I often found myself preferring the features and paying more attention to them instead of Scott's verses. I think he paid so much attention to the production of the project, that it took away from his own verses at times.

In addition, while I can appreciate the art and detail in every track, that does not mean I want to listen to the odd noises on a daily basis, and there are many songs that I feel I would not listen to, unless I am listening to the album in its entirety.

Even though I feel like the album can be overwhelming at times, I do appreciate the talent that was shown in the creation of this project. The features are some of my favorites of the year, if not all time, specifically Beyonce, SZA and Westside Gunn. My favorite hook on the album has to be in "I KNOW?," in which Scott shows off his soothing vocals that had fans fall in love with his music in the first place.

While it can be a lot at times, this is my favorite Scott album, and I would rate it an 8/10 and recommend it to anybody who enjoys abstract hip-hop, although this album is definitely not for everybody.



By Eric Lucio  
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## With Halloween night approaching, citizens should be cautious

Every year, children of all ages, including some teenagers, dress up in costumes of their choice and go door to door in residential neighborhoods to gather all the candy their hearts desire. In fact, on average, Americans spend \$3.1 billion on candy each year for Halloween, according to the National Retail Federation.

However, the tradition of going door to door to get candy is one that must be done with caution, something that news channels have reminded us of for years.

The caution about trick-or-treating began in 1970, when right before Halloween, the New York Times published an opinion piece that suggested that people may use Halloween candy as a way to poison children, according to a CNN article. Although the piece was an opinion, the public took it as fact, and the fear surrounding Halloween started.

On Halloween of 1974, a child in Houston, Texas, died from poisoning, and investigators traced his death to his Halloween candy. However, in time, they found that it was his own father who had poisoned his candy by placing

cyanide in his Pixy Stix. Still, the rumor of the "candyman killer" floated around, according to CNN.

In 1975, Newsweek magazine published an article that said, "Over the past several years, several children have died, and hundreds have narrowly escaped injury from razor blades, sewing needles and shards of glass put into their goodies by adults." Although the article lacked hard evidence of these injuries and deaths, by the 1980s, some communities went as far as banning trick-or-treating while other communities offered X-rays of Halloween candy.

Despite many claims ending up being myths, people have learned to be cautious, and this remains true today because of fentanyl, which can be lethal in small amounts. In late August, the Drug Enforcement Agency warned the public about "rainbow fentanyl," which are brightly colored pills that may look like candy.

Instead of door-to-door trick-or-treating, many communities have started "trunk-or-treat" events, in which businesses or organizations give away candy. For instance, downtown Hays businesses will host "Trick or Treat on the Bricks" on Oct. 31 from 3 to 5 p.m.

In addition, there are other activities around Hays for everyone to enjoy for Halloween. Just south of Hays on 976 250th Ave., there is Pa's Pumpkin Patch, which has a haunted corn maze for older participants, which is open Thursday, Oct. 26 through Saturday, Oct. 28 from dark until 11 p.m., and a petting zoo for the younger children. Hays also offers the Haunted Hays City Historic Tours, which are Friday, Oct. 20 and Saturday, Oct. 21 from 7 to 10 p.m., starting at 121 E. Eighth St.

This Halloween, no matter if you are trick-or-treating or attending another activity, be cautious, but have fun!



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## PRACTICES

**EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS****Teams adapt to outdoor issues, like high heat and poor air quality**

By Kale Schwien  
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Starting on Aug. 19 and ending on Aug. 25, a heat wave swept across the Midwest, including Kansas. The athletes at Hays High School were affected by both the extreme heat then and later the air quality at the start of the season.

In Ellis County, temperatures were greater than 100 degrees for all seven days of the heat wave, with the hottest temperature being 107 degrees, according to the Kansas State University Department of Agronomy. However, other spots in Kansas had record-breaking readings, including Manhattan reaching a high temperature of 115 degrees on Aug. 19.

For athletics, the heat mainly affected outdoor sports, such as cross country, football and boys soccer, with practice times being changed or being cancelled. While the cross country and the boys soccer teams practiced early before school the week of Aug. 21-25, football practiced later in the evening when it was cooler and less humid on some days.

"I don't think it affected our performance on the field much because of our coaches being smart with the heat wave rules and also making sure we always had enough water," junior football player Kamani Jones said.

In order to determine whether practices need to be adjusted due to the heat, in its "Exertional Heat Illness" document, the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) mandates that each school district has a heat contingency policy that is based on the heat index or the wet bulb globe temperature, which is based on not only temperature and humidity, but also cloud cover, sun angle and wind speed.

At Hays High, the athletic trainer, Dylan Moore, determines practice adjustments using the heat index, with a thermometer to measure air temperature and a hygrometer to measure relative humidity. If the heat index is greater than 84 degrees, practice can only be two hours, and athletes must have at least four water breaks. If the

heat index is greater than 89 degrees, there cannot be practice, and it must be rescheduled or cancelled.

Even if practice can be held during heat waves, KSHSAA suggests changing practices to mornings or to evenings when the heat index is lower, reducing the length of practice times, increasing cooling, shade and water breaks and modifying practice to avoid using any extra equipment, such as helmets or pads for football.

Not making these adjustments when heat is extreme can lead to heat illnesses, including cramps, fainting, heat exhaustion or heat stroke, the last of which is life-threatening.

However, heat was not the only environmental issue that teams had to worry about. Due to wildfires in Canada, the smoke eventually made its way to Kansas in August and September, which affected athletes because the air quality was too poor to practice or to play.

According to the Air Quality Index at [www.aqi.in](http://www.aqi.in), the air quality in Hays was "moderate" on Aug. 31, Sept. 7 and Sept. 8, but it was "poor" on Sept. 6, which were all worse than normal for the area and could cause some health issues, especially for those with breathing issues like asthma or cardiovascular problems.

"It was definitely a bit harder to practice because the air we were trying to breathe was a bit harsh," senior boys soccer player Edwin Muller said. "It affected a lot of people and made me feel sick. It also had my eyes stinging like I just cut open a fresh onion."

KSHSAA does not have guidelines for schools about air quality, so each school is responsible for determining whether practices or games need to be adjusted.

"I feel that, in the morning, the smoke was more potent, and you could definitely feel and see a lack in your performance," junior cross country runner Taevian Maupin-Dabney said. "And, with the heat wave, I think that it does help your body to train harder, but at the cost of a higher risk of heat exhaustion."

**"It was definitely a bit harder to practice because the air we were trying to breathe was a bit harsh... It also had my eyes stinging like I just cut open a fresh onion."**

senior Edwin Muller



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ATHLETE  
OF THE MONTH

Cross Country



senior Arely Maldonado

"In a display of athleticism, senior cross country runner Arely Maldonado etched her name into the record books, as she ran a hilly 5K race at the Hays Invitational on Sept. 14, crossing the finish line in 19:00. This feat not only marked a personal record for Maldonado, but also broke the school record of Marie Reveles from 2015.

"Breaking this record changed my view on cross country by showing me that training and dedication are large factors in the process," Maldonado said.

In addition to placing first at Hays, Maldonado finished fourth at Great Bend on Aug. 31, first in the Indians' division at Hesston on Sept. 7, 10th at Lawrence on Sept. 23 and sixth at Junction City on Sept. 30.

"For the rest of the season, I look forward to breaking 19:00 and creating memories with my friends," Maldonado said. "I think I have a good chance of making it to state, possibly even placing, but my biggest hope is to break 19:00, which could happen at regionals."

FACILITIES  
District approves updates to baseball field

By Feyden Hileman  
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At the USD 489 Board of Education meeting on Monday, Aug. 21, the district approved \$1.6 million of improvements to the baseball field at Hays High School.

The improvements will include replacing the turf for the infield, converting the outfield to artificial turf, changing the lights to LED lights, expanding the backstop and adding new bleachers.

Currently, the infield turf is 12 years old, which is two years past its expected lifespan. On top of that, the outfield is grass. Due to the ongoing drought conditions and the recent extreme heat, plus a state law that prohibits the school from taking more water from its wells and delivering it to the fields, the grass outfield has dead spots. These hard spots on the field could result in more injuries.

"We, as a program, were extremely excited when we heard they were going to put money into updating the baseball field," head coach Dustin Dreher said. "We have battled water well restrictions on the field for decades, and now, that is a problem we do not have to worry about. Twelve days after the vote passed to update the



Photo by Feyden Hileman

## RENOVATION READY

A view of the Hays High School baseball field shows areas of artificial turf that have been worn down over the years. Under a plan approved by the USD 489 Board of Education, the infield turf will be replaced, along with improvements to the outfield, the lights, the backstop and the bleachers.

field, I was notified that we could not use our sprinkler system to water our outfield grass, as our well allotment had been reached. So, our entire outfield is dying now, due to lack of water."

In addition to the turf replacements, the backstop will be made larger to keep foul balls from hitting vehicle windshields in the parking lot near the baseball field, and the new bleachers will be handicap accessible.

While the bond issue that passed in May of 2022 will fund various athletic facility improvements, the district

will be paying for the baseball field upgrades from the capital outlay funds, which are funds set aside in the district's budget for school building and facility renovations.

The project has an expected completion date of March 2024, just in time for this spring's baseball season.

"The updates are greatly appreciated and will complete the Hays High complex once the new school and facilities are complete," Dreher said. "It gives our school and community one of the nicest and most complete on-campus facilities in the state."

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# SUGAR & SPICE

## Famous fall flavor of pumpkin spice has long history, well before pumpkin spice lattes became popular

By Jacob Wente  
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Pumpkin spice lattes, pumpkin spice bread, pumpkin spice Cheerios, pumpkin spice Oreos and pumpkin spice Twinkies – all relatively normal. But, pumpkin spice cheese? Pumpkin spice hummus? Pumpkin spice meatballs? Pumpkin spice Pringles? Pumpkin spice Spam? Maybe not so normal.

While a plethora of pumpkin spice-flavored items have become extremely popular every autumn, at one time, the flavor profile was not so common.

The pumpkin spice flavor combination can be traced back to 1675 when the British mixed cinnamon, ginger, pepper and some other spices to produce the beloved pumpkin spice flavor, according to Tasting Table at [www.tastingtable.com](http://www.tastingtable.com).

The spice combination was also used in a pumpkin pudding that was included in Amelia Simmons's cookbook, "American Cookery," in 1796. However, it was not until 1934 that spice merchant McCormick and Company created a pumpkin pie spice blend for consumers.

However, pumpkin spice flavor really became popular in 2003, when Starbucks "Liquid Lab" created the Pumpkin Spice Latte, which has been popular for 20 years now.

Starbucks, along with other coffee shops,

restaurants and food manufacturers, have continued to release new pumpkin spice items each year, leading American consumers to spend more than \$236 million on edible pumpkin spice products, ranging from coffee drinks to ice cream and from breads to candies, according to The Guardian's article, titled "Dog Treats, Deodorant, Spam: Why Does America Sell 138,000 Pumpkin Spice Things?"

While there are thousands of pumpkin spice products, some people do not think the flavor is worth the hype.

"Personally, I think the pumpkin spice flavor is very overrated," junior Kenzie Berry said. "It doesn't taste like fall to me, and pumpkin just isn't a tasty flavor."

But, for those who love pumpkin spice items, they normally only have a limited time to get these treats, as retailers market the flavored items during the fall, with some starting as early as August, but with most releasing their items in September. With food products, some are even dyed orange to make them seem more festive for fall.

"I love the fall because pumpkin spice is one of my favorite flavors of all time," senior Chasey Wasinger said. "I love getting my morning Pumpkin Spice Latte from Starbucks and driving to school while the leaves change and the mornings are a little chilly."

## PUMPKIN SPICE LATTE REVIEWS

STARBUCKS



The first place I went was, of course, Starbucks, where I ordered the classic Pumpkin Spice Latte and the new Iced Pumpkin Cream Chai Tea Latte. The Pumpkin Spice Latte was good; I could not taste the pumpkin flavoring too well, but it balanced the coffee flavor very well, so I gave it a 7/10. On the other hand, the Iced Pumpkin Cream Chai Tea Latte was very well crafted. Not only did the drink look beautiful, but the taste was delicious, so I gave it a 9/10.

SCOOTER'S



The next place I went was Scooter's. The first item I got was the Iced Pumpkin Caramelicious, which was pretty tasty, but the coffee flavor overpowered the pumpkin flavor, and there was no caramel taste, so I gave it a 6/10. Then, I tried their Pumpkin Spice Latte, which was also good, but it had the same issue as the Pumpkin Caramelicious, so I gave it a 7/10. Lastly, from Scooter's, I tried the Pumpkin Spice Cake Bite, which I would definitely order again, so I gave it a 9/10.

BREATHE



The last place I went was Breathe, a local coffee shop in downtown Hays, which had the best Pumpkin Spice Latte out of the three places I tried. The flavor was delicious, and the coffee taste did not overpower the pumpkin flavor. It was a good balance of both coffee and pumpkin, and I really enjoyed this one, giving it a 9/10. At just \$4, plus tax, a medium drink was also cheaper than a Starbucks grande at \$5.45 or a Scooter's medium at \$5.65.



## Student Statistics

What is your favorite coffee shop?  
(in a poll of 45 students)

54% - Starbucks  
21% - Scooter's  
8% - Breathe  
6% - McDonalds  
11% - Nowhere, I don't like coffee.



## Future Films

Oct. 6

"The Burial"  
"The Exorcist: Believer"  
"Foe"  
"Pet Sematary: Bloodlines"

Oct. 13

"Dear David"  
"Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour"

Oct. 20

"Butcher's Crossing"  
"Killers of the Flower Moon"

Oct. 23

"Crossroads"

Oct. 27

"Five Nights at Freddy's"  
"Freelance"  
"Inspector Sun"  
"Sight"

Oct. 31

"Bloodthirst"  
"The Elderly"



## Witty Wisecracks

Why do some people love October?  
They fall for it every year.

How should you hunt in October?  
With an autumn-atic rifle.

What was Humpty Dumpty's favorite month?  
October because he had a great fall.

What did the ghost say when it found out it was October?  
It's boo-tiful outside.

Why were so many people suddenly being sarcastic?  
It was the first day of the month of Mock-tober.

What month is best for a music festival?  
Rock-tober.