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The Guidon

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



ONLINE HARRASSMENT

Teens experience cyberbullying,
especially through social media
Pages 6-7

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ON THE COVER



Cover photo illustration by Eric Lucio

ORGANIZATIONS

New Democratic Club encourages students to get involved in local, state, national politics

By Tavia Wynn-Coffman
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This school year, students have added a new club to the list of available activities with the Democratic Club, a part of the national High School Democrats of America organization.

The Democratic Club is an organization that students can join to get a better understanding of or to become more involved in politics.

Senior Jessica Feyerherm developed the idea for the club after talking to a co-worker who was involved in political events with a similar group at Victoria High School.

"I want to improve civic engagement at Hays High School and be able to attend events like that," Feyerherm said.

After finding a sponsor, gifted education teacher Jerry Braun, and getting school approval, the organization held its first meeting on Sept. 14 in the Lecture Hall, where six students attended.

Following its first meeting, the club participated in an event on Sept. 24 with the Fort Hays State University (FHSU) Young Democrats organization, which debated the FHSU College Republicans group at the Hays Public Library. Lindsay Vaughn, a state

representative for the 22nd district in Kansas, was also a guest speaker at the event.

"At the event, we were there for observation," Feyerherm said. "I enjoy following them [FHSU Young Democrats] on Instagram to get ideas for possible events."

While that event was local, Feyerherm said that the Democratic Club members are making plans to attend national events, too, including a trip to Washington, D.C., next summer and a

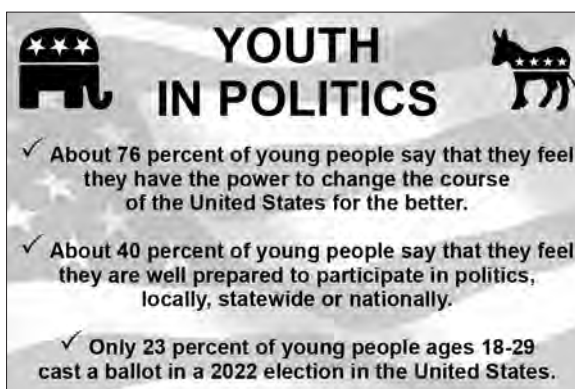
trip with other high school Democratic groups to Chicago next August for the Democratic National Convention.

"The conference in Chicago is the Democratic National Convention," Braun said. "The convention is where the party nominates its presidential candidate for the upcoming election. It is held every four

years. Delegates from every state in the nation attend this convention."

The new club plans to meet every other month unless there is an event to be discussed, according to Braun and Feyerherm.

"I would recommend any student who is interested in political action and/or community engagement to be involved with this club," Braun said. "Understanding how politics affects our daily lives is important."



Information from Tufts University Tisch College Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

For the Fall Musical "Sweeney Todd" on Nov. 9-12, sophomore Kay Walburn was charged with the artwork for the posters and shirts.

What made you want to do the artwork?
"Last year, [choir director] Mr. [Alex] Underwood asked if anyone in our Musical Theater class would be interested in drawing for the poster. This year, Mr. Underwood asked me if I would want to draw the poster for 'Sweeney Todd,' and I happily agreed."

What was your inspiration?

"I get much of my inspiration from other artists. For the musical, I took a lot of inspiration from the artistic choices our director, Adrian [Rifat], came up with. He wanted to make it more like the Dust Bowl in Midwestern America rather than London;

sophomore
Kay Walburn

I took his ideas and ran with them, incorporating that in the clothing that Sweeney Todd and Mrs. Lovett wear."

How did you first get into art?

"I got interested in art because of my brother. When he would doodle when we were younger, I would watch him, hoping to one day be as good as him."

Do you see yourself making the artwork for the musical again?

"If Mr. Underwood gives me the opportunity again next year, I would absolutely love to make the artwork for the musical again. It's so much fun getting to brainstorm with him and Adrian about how to make the posters eye-catching and unique, and it's usually a challenge for me to step out of my comfort zone and develop my skills."

FACILITIES

Construction begins for new high school building

By Kennedy Fischer
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After delayed groundbreaking dates, USD 489 broke ground on the new Hays High School, which will be just east of the current high school, on Wednesday, Oct. 4, and contractors started the construction process on Thursday, Oct. 23.

According to a Guidon online article, "Hays High Celebrates Groundbreaking for New High School" by Delia Dixon, Board of Education members, district and school administrators and representatives from the architect DLR Group and the contractor Nabholz Construction "wielded the symbolic shovels," as they ceremonially broke ground where half court of the basketball court will be.

"I felt the energy and excitement from the audience, and I believe it is because this 'new school' is no longer an idea on paper but a building about to be built," board member Tammy Wellbrock said.

Since then, the campus has experienced many changes. The back row of the west parking lot was removed to allow construction equipment to access the job site more easily and to make it safer for students. Previously, students

had to back into traffic when leaving school. Also, the new road through the lot will lead to the new school and will connect to 13th Street east of the building.

"It's not just a short-term solution; it's going to be something that will impact the plans moving forward," principal Shawn Henderson said.

Since spots was removed for the path, more parking was added to the ends of existing rows. Also, because crews set up three trailers as an office for Nabholz in the gravel lot south of the school, another lot was created between the west lot and the Department of Motor Vehicles office.

In addition to the parking changes, crews have installed a perimeter fence around the construction site, and they have cleared and leveled the ground.

Nabholz will coordinate the subcontractors for the project, as construction is expected to be finished by May 25, 2025, so the new high school can open for the 2025-2026 school year. That would make this year's sophomores the first graduating class from the school.

"I am excited about the opportunities and the new learning environment we get to be a part of with the new school," sophomore Noah Schaeffer said.



Photos by Jessica Augustine

CAMPUS CHANGES

With construction starting on the new Hays High School, citizens have seen changes to the current campus. These have included the addition of a perimeter fence around the building site, where the land has been cleared, the addition of trailers for office workspace for the contractors and the removal of parking spaces in the west lot.

Community divided about restrooms planned for new school

By Reagan Bates
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With all the talk about the new school, one of the most frequently discussed topics has been about the planned restrooms.

While the school will have men's and women's restrooms, there will also be three gender-neutral restrooms with a total of 34 stalls. These restrooms will include private stalls with floor-to-ceiling doors and a common handwashing area, and they will make up one third of the available restrooms in the new building, while the other two thirds will be communal men's and women's restrooms.

"It has to do with privacy and dignity," principal Shawn Henderson said. "It's an opportunity for someone to go in a place where they are the only one, so they feel more comfortable. That's it. I will also say that there's choice. So, if seven out of every 10 bathrooms are regular, and three out of every 10 are individual, it allows people to have that choice, but the

focus entirely is privacy and dignity."

There have been differing opinions about the restrooms. Some parents, community members and board members have voiced concerns that students may push other students into the private stalls and lock the doors with ill intentions or that students will use illegal substances, including vapes, in stalls.

However, Henderson said there will be cameras outside the restrooms, there will be vape detectors like in the current high school restrooms and there will be staff members monitoring the restrooms, too.

Another concern is whether students will be comfortable with the restrooms. According to an Oct. 18 Hays Post story, one school board candidate, Duff Watson, said, "I think if you have gender-neutral bathrooms, you will have many students who don't feel comfortable in that spot."

However, others say students will feel more comfortable in the private stalls.

In the same article, current school board member and longtime middle school principal Craig Pallister said, "Our

kids deserve the same privacy that adults have, no matter if they are in a school or church, in a business."

Pallister, along with others, have said the private restrooms may also help to reduce bullying and vandalism and improve mental health of students.

In a Sept. 26 Hays Post article, city commissioner Reese Barrick, who has students in the district, said, "I don't know how many people here have talked to their kids, but the idea of having spaces – restrooms – where they can have privacy is a big deal. If you've had kids who have been bullied in bathrooms, this is a big deal."

While many adults have their opinions, students also have their own ideas.

"I think they are both a good and bad idea for different reasons, but primarily, I think they will be good because they give more privacy with the ceiling-to-floor stall doors," junior Isabelle Jones said.

Other students say that they appreciate that the new restrooms will give all students the option of which restroom they want to use.

"As long as the school has different places you can go, depending on what you're comfortable with, I think that's fine," sophomore Mariella Dreiling said.

In a survey of 215 people, 73 percent said the restrooms were a "negative idea," 15 percent said they were a "positive idea" and 12 percent said they were "neutral."

STAFF

Additional staff members fill open positions this year

By Justin Houchen
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With multiple positions open this year due to resignations and retirements, 12 new faculty and staff members joined the Hays High School family when school began. Six are featured here, while the rest were in the October issue of The Guidon.

Desirae Kinderknecht – Mathematics

"This is my 19th year teaching mathematics. I taught at Victoria High School, Hays High School, Hays Middle School and now I am back at Hays High School. I came back to Hays High because I like a change every now and then. I enjoyed teaching at the middle school but missed teaching some of the higher-level math classes. I also wanted to be closer to my daughters that attend Hays High School."

Jessica Nickum – Foreign Language

"This is Year 12 in teaching, and I taught in Lincoln, Neb., at Dawes Middle School and Culler Middle School. Fate led me to Hays High through a series of events, and there is no question that I'm exactly where I am supposed to be. My favorite part about being here is being able to harass the kids and them being hilarious enough to harass me back. Snoballs are a close second, specifically Wild Cherry Pepsi."

Brayden Smith – Music

"I attended Kansas State University and earned a degree in Music Education. This is my first year of teaching. I took the job in Hays because of the support and culture of the other music teachers. My favorite part about Hays is the community of people that support the performing arts."

Kathleen Vahling – Family & Consumer Science

"I went to college to obtain a degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood. Later, I obtained my master's in Special Education. I have taught for 17 years; this is my 18th year of teaching. I am from Hays and have taught in USD 489 previously. I love how everyone at Hays High School is so welcoming."

Karen Wilson – Librarian

"I am starting my 30th year of teaching and have taught at Clearwater Elementary, Plainville Junior/Senior High School and in the Hays district. For the last three years, I was the librarian at Lincoln Elementary School and Roosevelt Elementary School libraries and am now at Lincoln, the middle school and high school. My favorite part of being at Hays High is the friendliness of the students and staff. It's a great place to be. Fun fact: I taught Spanish at Hays High in the mid-'90s. My old classroom is now Mr. [Luke] Lundmark's classroom."

Ruth Ann Zimmer – Language Arts

"This is my 27th year of teaching. I have taught at Hillcrest High School in Cuba, Kan., Otis-Bison High School, LaCrosse High School and Victoria High School. I wanted to teach at Hays High because I was used to being the only high school English teacher, and I wanted to be part of an English Department and learn from others who teach the same subject. My favorite part of Hays High School is how welcoming everyone has been, from the administration, faculty, staff members and students."

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CHANGES

District begins to offer free, second breakfast options at high school

By LeRoy Goodspeed
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Recently, the district has made major changes to the breakfast program at Hays High School.

As of Oct. 16, all Hays public schools have offered free breakfast to all their students. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kansas schools were able to offer free breakfast and lunch to students with the assistance of federal and state grant money. However, last year, families had to begin paying again for meals, and the number of students eating breakfast in all district schools dropped drastically, from about 700 to 800 students per day to about 500 students per day.

In order to encourage more students to eat school breakfast again, Jessica Younker, the director of nutrition services for USD 489, proposed making it free of charge for all district students by paying for the costs from district funds. Recognizing the importance of breakfast on student performance, the Board of Education approved the plan at its meeting on Oct. 9.

According to an article by the Food Research and Action Center, when students do not eat breakfast or lunch, they can lose focus in class, which, in turn, can affect their ability to learn. The absence of breakfast can also cause more behavioral problems with students.

Since the free breakfast program started, there has been a 30 percent increase in students eating breakfast at school, according to Younker.

Another change to the breakfast program is just at the high school, where a second-chance breakfast has been offered between first and second blocks since August. In order to allow students time for this, the administration extended the passing period between the blocks from five minutes to seven minutes.

Originally, the school had carts in the hallways, like breakfast had been served in the past. However, because the number of students getting the second-chance breakfast was increasing, the lines became long, the halls became blocked and students arrived late for their second block. Now, breakfast before school and the second-chance breakfast are served in the cafeteria; students can get one free breakfast a day.

The second-chance breakfast option has been popular with many students, including those who may not have had time to get breakfast before school started because of having before-school commitments or arriving right before school.

"I like not having to be to school as early just to get breakfast," junior Mason Schleicher said. "Normally, I would not have time for breakfast, but with the second-chance being an option, I am able to get breakfast every day."



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Social media allows students to cyberbully others extremely easily

By Delia Dixon
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In the United States, 46 percent of teenagers from the ages of 13 to 17 have experienced cyberbullying in at least one form, if not more, according to the Pew Research Center. This percentage increases to 49 percent for teenagers in high school. Teenagers are far from ignorant about the harsh denigration and ridicule of people online. With the internet and social media being crucial in teenagers’ daily lives, they are exposed to many forms of cyberbullying online, even if they are simply viewers of it. Cyberbullying is a constantly reoccurring issue that schools across the nation struggle with, especially through social media.

Cyberbullying, according to UNICEF, is “bullying with the use of digital technologies” that “is repeated behavior, aimed at scaring, angering or shaming those who are targeted.”

Being a victim of cyberbullying incidents can cause detrimental effects to one’s mental health. Online abuse can lead to higher rates of depression and anxiety, decreased self-esteem and overall damage to one’s confidence, according to American Society for Positive Care of Children (SPCC). Cyberbullying can also have long-term effects. Some victims of cyberbullying avoid school, which has a detrimental effect on their grades, and some lose friendships or have increased instances of eating disorders, especially in girls. Extreme cases of cyberbullying can also lead to suicide. According to the Journal of Health Economics, cyberbullying increases suicide attempts by 8.7 percent and suicidal thoughts by 14.5 percent.

“I think cyberbullying negatively affects the victim by belittling their mental health, which is vulnerable enough at a young age,” senior Lily Garrison said.

Cyberbullying has become a common way to target others because of the lack of confrontation. Hiding behind a screen causes some people to say whatever they feel because they often do not think about the consequences since they cannot see the person they targeted, whereas if they were in person, they may not say the same things to the person.

In many cases, there is also the factor of anonymity, or being nameless with a profile on social media platforms like Instagram,

“People think they can get away with things easier when they aren’t face to face and can somewhat hide their identity.”

**SOPHOMORE
SETH BURKHOLDER**

that makes it more difficult to find the offender. If cyberbullies remain anonymous, they are less likely to face punishment for their actions. This is yet another reason that cyberbullying is easier to do compared to face-to-face bullying.

“People think they can get away with things easier when they aren’t face to face and can somewhat hide their identity,” sophomore Seth Burkholder said.

However, cyberbullying appears to receive relatively little attention despite its rapid increase in the past few years. According to Pew Research Center’s survey from 2022, 74 percent of teenagers felt that social media sites are not doing a satisfactory job addressing online harassment. While cyberbullying is discouraged, social media platforms seemingly fail to acknowledge the severity of it among its users. The survey also found that 59 percent of teenagers thought that educators were also failing to address cyberbullying. However, again, because users can remain anonymous or accounts can be private, it can be difficult to regulate or to see what people post or say online.

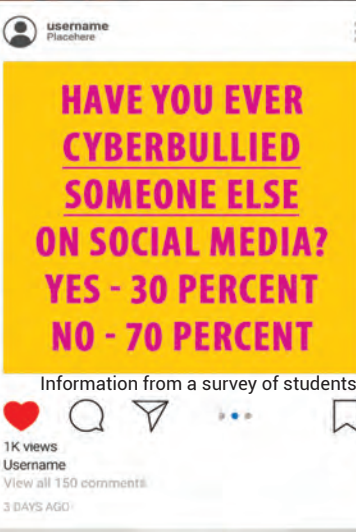
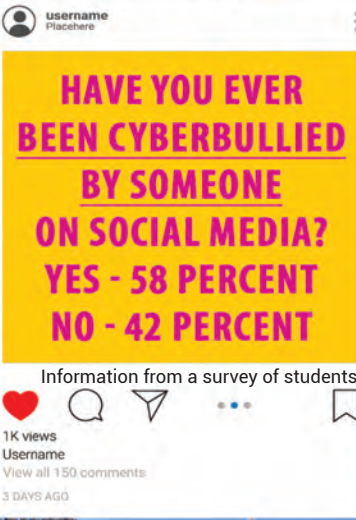
“I believe cyberbullying is a big issue, especially in our age range,” Garrison said. “I don’t think the awareness for the problem is spread enough.”

While cyberbullying instances will likely continue to happen, teenagers themselves can try to avoid engaging with the content by blocking cyberbullies, not engaging with or retaliating to cyberbullying, not following accounts or sharing posts that include cyberbullying, protecting personal online privacy and security and reporting instances of cyberbullying.

“Reducing cyberbullying could happen if social media wasn’t a thing, but in our world, there is no way of getting rid of that,” Garrison said.

If, however, students feel that the cyberbullying is threatening potential harm or sharing explicit images, it may be a criminal matter – a misdemeanor or even a felony – which is when they should seek help from law enforcement, such as Hays High’s School Resource Office, Austin Spencer.

“Depending on the severity of the bullying and specifics to what is said, the bully could be charged criminally,” Spencer said. “It is not worth getting involved with the criminal justice system over bullying. I take bullying very seriously and will assist in any manner I can.”



Instant HARM

CYBERBULLYING, ALSO KNOWN AS ONLINE HARRASSMENT, INCLUDES ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: BEING CALLED OFFENSIVE NAMES, HAVING RUMORS SPREAD, RECEIVING PHYSICAL THREATS, HAVING EMBARRASSING OR EXPLICIT IMAGES POSTED, GETTING QUESTIONED CONSTANTLY, ETC.

TEENAGERS REPORT BEING CYBERBULLIED THE MOST ABOUT THE FOLLOWING: THEIR APPEARANCE, GENDER, POLITICS, RACE/ETHNICITY, RELIGION & SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Information from the Pew Research Center; photos by Jessica Augustine, Reagan Bates, Delia Dixon, Clare Tholstrup & Tavia Wynn-Coffman

Instant RESPONSE

Student-run Instagram account shut down after being reported

By Eleanor Bittel
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While social media can be a popular way to share life experiences, communicate important information and raise public awareness of different issues, it can also be a way to post negativity, spread misinformation and even cyberbully others.

Over recent years, students have created accounts on social media platforms that seem to be affiliated with high schools, but are clearly not. While some of these are harmless, others are not, and they get reported by users to the platforms or shut down by school administrators.

In October, students began talking about a new Instagram account, called @dickle.hhs, which had posts of photos and videos of Hays High School students, both at school and outside school, but often taken without their knowledge and permission. The account also allowed users to submit photos or videos of other students to be posted on the account – many of which were embarrassing or unflattering images.

One Hays High student, who asked to remain nameless, said, “The entire purpose of the account was to embarrass people.”

Because of the content being posted, it led some students and staff members to notify administrators, who quickly reacted, shutting down the account in less than two hours.

While administrators would not disclose who managed the Instagram account for this article because it involved student disciplinary actions, many students knew who started it, and junior Noah Schaeffer admitted his involvement.

Schaeffer said that the Instagram account was inspired by another account, known as @pickletmp, on which students from neighboring school Thomas More Prep posted pictures and clips of students or events, intending to be for entertainment.

“It started with me and my friend talking at lunch about how we should create an account similar to the TMP one,” Schaeffer said. “It was genuinely funny and didn’t seem to cause any harm, because it was ‘run’ from a Catholic school. We then created the account then and there.”

Within the first week, the “Hays High” account had an impressive following.

“By the end of the week, it ended up getting over 200 followers, going from about 170 to 200 in about three hours on the last day,” Schaeffer said.

While Schaeffer said he created the Instagram account with the intention of being funny and of not being harmful, the account only lasted about a week before he was required to shut the site down, and he was disciplined by the school for creating the account.

“Administration was concerned about other students being harassed and students’ privacy as well,” Schaeffer said.

Praises

- Painting
- Musicals
- Hays Public Library
- Spicy chicken sandwiches
- "Attack on Titan"
- Pinterest

Protests

- Low phone battery
- Starting your car when it's cold
- HHS parking lot traffic
- Ear infections
- Dirty socks
- Being sick

Staff Playlist

Reagan Bates

"What's Up?"
by Four Non Blondes

Eleanor Bittel

"Agora Hills"
by Doja Cat

Delia Dixon

"Ivy"
by Frank Ocean

Kennedi Fischer

"Under Control"
by The Strokes

LeRoy Goodspeed

"Money Trees"
by Kendrick Lamar

Feyden Hileman

"Runaway"
by Kanye West

Justin Houchen

"Ain't No Rest for the Wicked"
by Cage The Elephant

Eric Lucio

"Kevin's Heart"
by J Cole

Maddie Meis

"Silver Soul"
by Beach House

Justus Nelson

"Dirty Work"
by Steely Dan

Madighan Norris

"Fishtail"
by Lana Del Rey

Kale Schwien

"Stir Fry"
by Migos

Clare Tholstrup

"Rich Girl"
by Daryl Hall & John Oates

Jake Wente

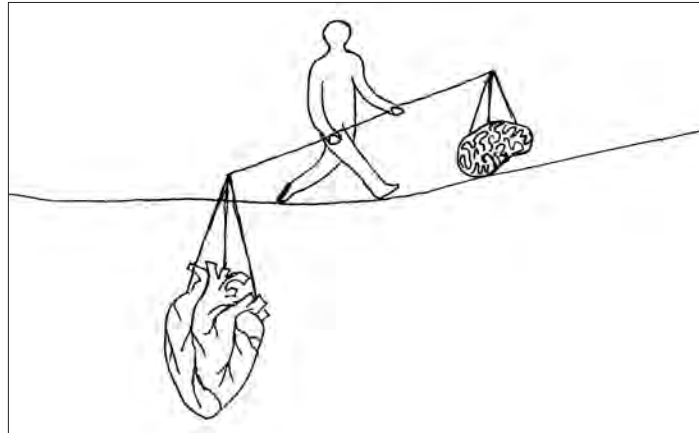
"Bikini Bottom"
by Ice Spice

Tavia Wynn-Coffman

"Sweet Nothing"
by Taylor Swift

Jessica Augustine

"Now And Then"
by The Beatles



Cartoon by Eleanor Bittel

Line between moral construct and legal code can be blurred

Hypothetically, imagine you are a train conductor nearing a fork in the tracks that splits into two directions. Tied to Track 1 is a person whom you know; on Track 2 are five strangers, unable to move as well. As the conductor, you are unable to stop, and you must choose one of the tracks.

Depending on the person, the responses to this moral dilemma would differ exponentially. Some say Track 1, some say Track 2 and some do not say anything. What determines which of these answers is the most moral? Where is the line between good and bad? How do we determine what morals become ordinances to follow?

Morals are widely accepted ideas that humans create of what is right versus what is wrong. Humanity's wide range of morals is the product of identifying what makes us feel guilty for something and what makes us feel empathy for others.

But, there is a difference between societal and personal morals, and morals also differentiate among cultures and religions. Personal morals are constructed by how someone has been raised and what they have been taught and shown. On the other hand, societal morals are decided by the majority rule; whatever the larger percentage of the population believes is right sets the moral code for the rest of a society.

Laws are morals set as rules. Instead of being mere suggestions, laws require individuals to adhere to a certain set of rules or to face punishment – which, here in the West, is usually jail sentences, house arrest or community service. Laws are determined by the government. Not getting into specifics, they are drafted, introduced, researched, voted on and eventually passed into our legal system. Laws regulate citizen behavior and settle disputes. However, being a law-abiding citizen does not necessarily mean you are a morally correct person. So, how is our legal code and our moral construct connected?

In our opinion, they are not, so it is difficult to determine where the line exists. Despite the fact that some laws do align with a number of individuals' moral constructs, not all do. Also, morality is subjective, as opinions about rules and laws differ among all people. Another point to think about is that some, if not most, laws are in place not to keep the population moral – but to keep the population safe. Laws ignore the feelings of morality and, instead, serve as a tool for humanity to protect individuals' rights and create a common sense of safety in society.

The fact is this: a person is legally obligated to follow the law, but naturally follows one's own moral compass.

Opinion of the Guidon Staff

Agree: 5

Disagree: 10

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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.

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LISTEN IN WITH ERIC

Despite its commercial success, Drake's new album lacks uniqueness

Anytime that Drake drops an album, the world tunes in. So, when the rapper announced his newest project, "For All the Dogs," it immediately became one of the most anticipated albums of the year. Originally announced in June of 2023, the album had delays due to the tour that Drake was on, and the project officially dropped on Oct. 6, with 23 songs over the course of a run time of one hour and 24 minutes.

Drake has dominated the rap game over the past decade, with seven albums that reached platinum. Prior to this album, Drake needed just one more No. 1 song on the Billboard Hot 100 to tie Michael Jackson's record of the most No. 1 songs by a male solo artist with 13. The rapper was cognizant of this record, and in "First Person Shooter," a song off the new album that featured rapper J. Cole, Drake said, "I'm one away from Michael." Speaking it into existence, "First Person Shooter" reached No. 1, and Drake officially tied Jackson. In the first

week of the album's release, it surpassed 402,000 units, with 391,000 from streaming platforms and 10,000 album sale units. This was also Drake's number 13th No. 1 album on the Billboard 200.

Despite the massive popularity of Drake and his music, I have not liked the music he has produced in the last few years, and this album did not impress me whatsoever, either. While I did enjoy a few of the album's tracks, the majority of this project was bland, sounding similar to all his recent music. Fans did get a glimpse of the old Drake in some tracks, but in his last few albums, Drake has used the same style and has experimented very little in comparison to other artists of his popularity. As a result, it is common for his features to outperform him, and his verses either get ridiculed by the public or are forgotten.

Although I think it was a somewhat failed attempt overall, I can appreciate the effort Drake put into the album to

try to stop making bad songs just long enough to make one that was catchy enough to go to No. 1. I did enjoy a few tracks off the project, and I think that, if he would be himself and not worry about the numbers, he could make authentic music that people will love. I especially enjoyed the features, such as J. Cole in "First Person Shooter," Lil Yachty in "Another Late Night" and SZA in "Slime You Out." I believe that there were some memorable tracks, and Drake showed glimpses of making unique music that seemed authentic, plus he used cover art made by his son, Adonis, as well as including a small humorous verse by Adonis as well.

Overall, Drake has shown a lack of individuality over the last couple albums, creating mass commercial success but harsh criticism from many as well. While I cannot say I loved "For All the Dogs," I do think it was Drake's best album since "Certified Lover Boy" in 2021. I would rate the album a 6.5/10, and I would still recommend those who enjoy modern hip-hop to give it a listen and form their own opinion on it.



By Eric Lucio
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Restrooms for new school should not be public's top concern

The new Hays High School building is finally under construction, but even before the groundbreaking happened, came a strange topic of disagreement – restrooms. Some of the planned restrooms have community members concerned.

The restrooms in question are those that will be gender-neutral, which will have individual stalls with floor-to-ceiling doors for more privacy and a handwashing sink area open to the hallway. Some community members have expressed concerns about student safety in these gender-neutral restrooms, while others have said they will be beneficial.

As a student, I have some thoughts on these restrooms, too. Because I am in the Class of 2025, I will not get the chance to experience attending school in the new building. Even so, I am aware of what happens in our current school.

To start, I see the private restrooms as a nice option to increase privacy and decrease bullying. With our current restrooms, you can see through the stalls very easily, as there are gaps in between the doors. I even have heard from friends

that they have experienced other people standing on the toilets and looking down on them as they are in the stalls, even taking photos sometimes. The new private restrooms would eliminate those issues. One of the concerns brought up has been the issue of bullying, but I think that bullying incidents like what my friends have experienced would not be an issue with the private restrooms with the full doors.

Also, the new restroom design might help with an issue many current restrooms have been encountering, vandalism. I have heard about how restrooms, specifically the boys' restrooms, have had doors ripped off the stalls, sinks broken, soap dispensers ripped from the walls and more. With the new design, that would likely decrease the amount of vandalism in restrooms, especially when coupled with the restrooms being supervised by staff and the hallways being monitored by cameras.

A final discussion point has been that the restrooms being gender-neutral might encourage certain school-inappropriate interactions between boys and girls, and that girls might be in more danger.

First of all, if teenagers really want to, they will find a way to hook up. But, I do not think that either issue is something that is going to happen since, again, the restroom areas will be monitored by staff members and by cameras.

Personally, I think that some people are being dramatic and creating issues because they can. The private restrooms will make up only about one-third of the restrooms in the school, so students and staff

will still have the option to use the regular gendered restrooms. With this in mind, I think that the private restrooms should not be a top concern of people in the community. Students can decide for themselves whether they want to use those restrooms or not.



By Clare Tholstrup
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RESULTS

SEASON SUMMARIES

Head coaches reflect on teams' performances for fall sports season

By Feyden Hileman & Justin Houchen
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CROSS COUNTRY

with coach Jerold Harris

How do you think the season went?

"We had a very successful season. Our ladies qualified for the state meet for the third year in a row [and] were WAC runner-up to the No. 1 team in 5A."

What seniors made the biggest impact?

"We will be losing an amazing group of seniors. Arely Maldonado has set the all-time 4K and 5K school records this year. Brynn Kinderknecht has been our No. 2 runner all year. Julia Zadina and Brenlynn Albers have been consistent as our third and fourth runners. Elijah McCullough had an outstanding senior year; he made many of our Top 10 Lists."

Photo by Arely Maldonado (Indian Call)

FOOTBALL

with coach Tony Crough

How do you think the season went?

"We weren't sure, with the strength of our schedule, what it would look like, and we had a lot of young kids that lacked experience, and so, we feel like with having at least a share of the WAC title, it went pretty well."

What players made the biggest impact?

"[Senior] Malik Bah set the school record for career rushing yards. [Senior] Henry Fitzthum has been starting on the offensive line for three years, and [seniors] Will Linenberger and Caden Bunker have been starting for two years. And, we've had some others that have really stepped up."

Photo by Ava Schoenberger (Indian Call)

GIRLS GOLF

with coach Mark Watts

How do you think the season went?

"The Gold Team had a great year – one of the best ever for a lady Indian golf team. They set a school record for the best 18-hole score at state. We had four girls medal in the Top 20. That only has happened one other time – in 2011."

What seniors made the biggest impact?

"All four of our seniors are on the All-WAC teams. Seniors Abbie Norris, Ashlynn Banker and Evyn Cox were on the First Team, and senior Lily Garrison was Second Team. Abbie, Lily and Evyn were All-State at the state championship, so yes, we will definitely miss those four seniors."

Photo by Hannah Crain (Indian Call)

BOYS SOCCER

with coach Daniel Kelly

How do you think the season went?

"I believe the season went well; I saw a lot of growth and maturity from the team. Everyone on the team did well to improve during practice, and I feel like we saw the results of the hard work in games."

Are there any players who you are excited to have next season?

"For next season, we have a few freshmen coming up from Hays Middle School that have potential, but I am most excited for the players that have put in a lot of effort on JV this year. With JV having a 6-3 record, it is very promising for the future to build on that."

Photo by Arely Maldonado (Indian Call)

GIRLS TENNIS

with coach Kayla Brown

How do you think the season went?

"We had a very good season, both at the JV and varsity level. I'm glad we had a lot of juniors see good varsity experience this year, so they have a better idea of what to expect for their senior season. Maybe we can get someone to the state tournament next year."

How do you think next season will go?

"With the return of many experienced juniors, they are able to use this season as a stepping stone to help get them to where they want to be next fall. I have no doubt they will come in with determination to be competitive with both area and WAC teams."

Photo by Lily Butler (Indian Call)

VOLLEYBALL

with coach Shannon Funk

How do you think the season went?

"I knew this group of girls was going to do great things. As every season goes, there were ups and downs, but the girls ended on a high note, going 10-1 to finish the regular season. I'm proud of the team's development and success."

How do you think next season will go?

"Losing this group of six seniors is going to be a huge hole to fill. With that being said, I believe each season brings new adventures. Next season, you will see the return of six underclassmen currently on varsity. Additionally, there are some athletes on the JV and C teams that will contribute to varsity next season."

Photo by Maycie Holdeman (Indian Call)



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ATHLETE
OF THE MONTH

Girls Golf

senior Abbie Norris

Senior Abbie Norris earned the girls golf Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Player of the Year this year. This was due to her fifth-place finish that helped lead her team to the WAC team title.

"Getting Player of the Year was a goal of mine from last year, so I was proud that my hard work paid off," Norris said.

Her experience came from starting to golf at a young age and playing in high school.

"Golf is a sport my entire family plays, so I've been doing this since I was 7," Norris said.

Her coaches also proved to play a role in her success.

"Both coach [Mark] Watts and coach [Lonnie] Melvin have helped me develop my skills and improve my decision making," Norris said.

This year, Norris placed at many tournaments, including winning at Liberal and at Garden City, placing in the Top 10 at most other tournaments, finishing second at regionals in Wichita on Oct. 5 and placing 11th at state on Oct. 17, to help the team to its second-place finish in Class 5A.

RECORDS

Senior running back breaks multiple records

By Kale Schwien
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At the Indians' varsity football game against Dodge City on Friday, Oct. 6, a major school record was broken again.

Senior running back Malik Bah broke the school record for all-time career rushing yards, exceeding the previous record that was set in 2012 by David Cardinal, who had 2,800 yards and who went on to play for Pueblo University, then Pittsburg State University.

"I didn't even realize I was close to the record," Bah said, but head coach Tony Crough said, "We expected him to break it weeks earlier, but he was injured."

Last year, Bah only played seven games due to an injury, in which he dislocated his shoulder. This season, he only played in four at the start of the year due to another injury to his arm, but he returned in the Homecoming game against Ulysses to continue his senior season.

In addition to being limited due to injuries, Bah also had to wait his turn at the position, as he played behind standouts Roy Moroni and Jaren Kanak during his freshman and sophomore seasons. According to Crough, if Bah had played each game per season in all four years of high school, he would have amassed more than 4,000 yards, well beyond the record. This year alone, Bah had 1,279 yards.

Despite his past injuries and limited appearances, Bah showed his skills when he was on the field to break the records for career rushing yards with 3,546, along with career carries with 427 and season carries with 189.

"My offensive line should get all of the credit for it," Bah said, adding that, the players on the offensive line blocked for him and tried to create the space for him to run all season.

With the football team winning its first playoff game against Valley Center on Oct. 27



Photo courtesy of Emily Stenzel

RECORD SETTER

During the playoff game against Valley Center on Oct. 27, senior Malik Bah carries the football in the open field. This season, Bah broke the school records for all-time career yards, career carries and season carries.

and facing Goddard Eisenhower on Nov. 3, Bah added to his records, leaving him as one of the best running backs in Hays High history.

With previous record holders going on to play college football, Bah said he also hopes to follow this path of continuing his football career in college. Although he has not committed to a school, he has received offers from multiple Division II schools, such as Fort Hays State University and Pittsburg State University.

"I hope to continue playing football while majoring in either math or sports medicine," Bah said.

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SHOWTIME STARS

Popular trend of dressing in costume for movies attracts teenagers back into movie theaters

By Jacob Wente
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Lately, moviegoers have been doing a lot more than just watching new films to show their support for the latest movies in theaters. Some audience members have taken to dressing in costumes to see popular new movies.

The occurrence of people dressing up for movies started with "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," which was released in 1975, according to www.screenrant.com. Audience members dressed up as their favorite characters from the film and found something in common with others who dressed up, too.

While the COVID-19 pandemic and the availability of streaming services affected movie theater attendance and the trend of dressing up for new movies slowly fizzled out, it made a comeback in 2022 when "Minions: The Rise of Gru" came to theaters, according to www.salon.com. Fans of the "Minion" franchise decided to dress in suits to see the movie, calling it "The Rise of the Gentleminions."

One of the groups that latched onto this trend has been teenagers, with ideas spreading faster than ever on social media, like TikTok. The trend of dressing up for new movies has increased the attendance in the theaters among teenage viewers, with young fans going all out for hit movies, such as "Barbie" this summer and, more recently, "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" and "Five Nights at Freddy's."

With the "Barbie" movie that released on July 21, fans had planned their outfits for months in advance, and audiences were full of different shades of pink and of costumes of different Barbies and Kens through the years.

"I dressed up for Barbie with all of my friends, which was so much fun," senior Chelsey Wasinger said. "We all wore pink and got dressed up super cute, and seeing everyone else in the theater dressed up too was so cool."

On Oct. 13 came "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" film. With Swift being on tour since March 2023, fans had been dressing for her concerts in outfits from her different musical eras. So, it was expected that they would do the same for the movie. And, they did, wearing costumes, ranging from dresses with cowboy boots to replicas of her leotards.

"My friends, who all dressed up as one of her music videos, made it so much fun," junior Caira Augustine said. "All of us knew the words, and we sang to every song, which was also made it such a fun experience."

For "Five Nights at Freddy's," which came out on Oct. 27, many fans dressed up as the various animatronic characters from the horror game series, which started in 2014.

"For the new 'Five Nights at Freddy's' movie, I will be dressing up as Chica with a group of friends," senior Lilian McGrath said. "I enjoy dressing up for movies because it makes the whole experience more memorable, and it is just very funny to me."

"BARBIE"

The "Barbie" movie, released on July 21, invites viewers to Barbie Land, where the dolls reside in their perfect and colorful lives, and follows Barbie and Ken, as they discover they can enter the real world.

I thought the plot line had a good mix of humorous and serious moments. However, the movie seemed to be marketed more towards teens and adults, rather than kids. Besides enjoying the plot, I also found the movie visually pleasing, with the switch between the bright colors from Barbie Land versus the neutral pallet in the real world.

As a Barbie fan, I know that my younger self would have loved the movie as much as I did this summer.

"TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR"

The "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" film was a massive hit for all Swifties, whether they were able to see her recent tour in person or not.

The film, which released Oct. 13, showed clips from the Los Angeles concert. Those clips focused a lot on movie cinematography, showing views of Swift performing from various angles. During the performances, she sang hits from all of her albums, and she had costume and set changes for each song.

Overall, I really enjoyed seeing this movie, and I thought it was quite immersive, especially as someone who was not able to attend an Eras Tour concert in person.

"FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S"

As someone who has been a fan of the "Five Nights at Freddy's" video games, I thought this movie, which came out on Oct. 27, did not disappoint in the least.

The movie does not follow the exact lore of the games or of the books, but instead, it starts its own plot line. The actors did a phenomenal job of portraying their characters, and the animatronics were exactly how I pictured they would be in real life. The only part that I would have liked to see more of was the popular horror aspect.

I would highly recommend this movie to anyone, whether they are "Five Nights at Freddy's" fans or not.



Student Statistics

What is your favorite movie genre?
(in a poll of 38 students)

36% - "Comedy"
23% - "Action"
16% - "Horror"
13% - "Sci-Fi"
12% - "Drama"



Future Films

Nov. 1

"Hurricane Season"
"Locked In"
"Wingwomen"

Nov. 3

"Priscilla"
"The Marsh King's Daughter"
"What Happens Later"

Nov. 10

"It's a Wonderful Knife"
"The Marvels"

Nov. 17

"Trolls Band Together"
"The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes"

Nov. 22

"Napoleon"
"Wish"

Nov. 23

"The Elderly"
"The Naughty Nine"



Witty Wisecracks

What did one November say to the other?

I autumn know you!

What's every pumpkin's dream in November?

To grow up and become a pie!

Why do Thanksgiving turkeys always say "gobble"?

They're trying to get the last word in!

What's the most musical part of November?

The brrr.

Why was the Thanksgiving book so good?

It had a juicy turkey plot twist.

What do November grapes say to each other?

Soon, we'll be wine-ing about the cold!