

Vol. 98
Issue 4

The Guidon

February
2024

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

WHOLESOME OR BROKEN?

Teens have various experiences
in their personal relationships
Pages 6-7

Contents

February 2024 | Volume 98 | Issue 4

IN EVERY ISSUE

2 | Student Spotlight

8 | Staff Opinions

11 | Athlete of the Month

NEWS

3 | Staff, former students remember longtime industrial tech teacher

4 | Top law enforcement official gives presentations about fentanyl dangers

5 | Students celebrate annual Indian Call week with spirit days, crowning

FEATURES

6-7 | Students encounter healthy and unhealthy relationships as teens

OPINIONS

9 | Staff member reviews previous album from Usher prior to Super Bowl LVIII

SPORTS

11 | Offensive left tackle participates in freshman All-American bowl game

ENTERTAINMENT

12 | Looking back to 2023, certain products stand out as major trends

ON THE COVER



Cover photo illustration by Eric Lucio

ORGANIZATIONS

Science Olympiad team competes at regionals

By LeRoy Goodspeed
25lgoodspeed@usd489.com

On Saturday, Jan. 20, Hays High School students competed in the Science Olympiad regional contests at Fort Hays State University.

Earning first place in Disease Detectives were senior Henry Fitzthum and freshman Kamden McBride. Third place results included

senior Lilian McGrath, senior Madighan Norris, sophomore Karlee Crispin and freshman Ahnaly Leiker in Astronomy; McGrath and Norris in Fossils; senior Jessica Feyerherm and junior Aryahn Fischer in Forestry; and Fitzthum and McBride in Write It Do It. Taking fourth place in Experimental Design were senior Lexi Burton and Fitzthum. And, in fifth place for Forensics were Fitzthum and McBride.

McBride said he joined Science Olympiad at the beginning of this school year.

"I thought Science Olympiad would be a great way to challenge myself and better my skills working as a team," McBride said. "I've improved my communication skills, as well as learning a lot about crime scene analysis."

McBride participated in regionals in Astronomy, Disease Detectives, Experimental Design, Fossils and Write It Do It.

"To be honest, it was my first year, and I had very little info to go on, so I used online tools like Quizlet and the Science Olympiad website to study," McBride said. "As for the Write It Do It event, it was a last-minute decision, but thanks to [senior] Henry Fitzthum, I got a crash course to help me prepare."

"I thought Science Olympiad would be a great way to challenge myself and to better my skills working as a team. I've improved my communication skills, as well as learning a lot..."

freshman Kamden McBride

Not only did new members like McBride participate in regionals, but so did veterans.

"I placed first in Disease Detectives and third in Forestry," Feyerherm said. "We ended up qualifying for state due to our Disease Detective placement. We are revising our notes and learning more about epidemiological studies to prepare for state. Our main focus will be learning about data collection errors and bias since we did not know those answers on the exam."

Science teacher Thomas Decker, who is the new sponsor for Science Olympiad, said he was pleased with the club's performance at this recent event and was glad that he took on the sponsorship.

"I saw a passion in the senior students at Hays High that made them want

to take one more shot at their favorite events," Decker said. "It convinced me to try it out myself and take on the role of sponsor."

Decker said he enjoys seeing the impact that Science Olympiad has on the students, as it positively affects their problem-solving skills and learning abilities.

"It teaches knowledge and flexibility of that knowledge," Decker said. "When you are in a competition, you face unknowns and are required to react and do your best regardless of the materials that you may have available."

Overall, Science Olympiad members said they are happy with their performance at regionals. Looking ahead, McBride already has plans for next year, though.

"For next year, I plan to prepare further in advance and try some new events," McBride said.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Senior Evyn Cox, along with seniors Conner Miller and Brendan Stults, recently qualified for state orchestra.

When did you start playing violin?

"I started playing in the fifth grade. I started playing in the Concert Orchestra when I was a freshman and then went up to Chamber Orchestra my sophomore year."

How often do you practice?

"I normally practice a few hours a week, as well as taking private lessons. I also participate in out-of-school orchestra activities."

How does state orchestra work?

"Before state, you must make it to districts, which I have made all four years of high school. Then you can try out for state orchestra, which this is



senior Evyn Cox

my first year making it. We will come together on [Saturday] Feb. 24; the Wednesday before [Feb. 21], we will leave for Wichita, and then the following Thursday and Friday [Feb. 22 and 23], we have rehearsals that last all day."

Were you expecting to go to the state?

"To be honest, not really. I have tried out before and have not made it; this is the most confident I have felt. But, still, I wasn't too sure if I was going to make it because there was an increase in competition; however, I felt like I had a good audition."

Are you planning on continuing to play violin after high school?

"Yes, however, I don't plan to play for a college — more just play in my free time or in little groups that we can come together to play in."

OBITUARY

Former technology instructor leaves lasting legacy

By Justus Nelson
24jnelson@usd489.com

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, former longtime Hays High School industrial technology teacher Chris Dinkel died at Hays Medical Center, surrounded by his immediate family members.

Dinkel was born on April 8, 1966, in Hays. He graduated from Thomas More Prep and attended Fort Hays State University, where he attained his bachelor's degree in technical education with concentrations in Metals, Principle Technology, Social Studies, Technical Communications/Drafting and Woods.

After graduating from FHSU, he started his teaching career at LaCrosse, where he taught and coached for five years, before coming to Hays High, where he instructed industrial technology for 25 years. He retired from Hays High following the 2020-2021 school year but continued to work; he owned Dinkel Design & Building, worked at Hess Services and returned to teaching industrial technology at Otis-Bison.

Before his arrival at Hays High, the industrial technology department was minimally equipped. Dinkel devoted much of his energy, resources and time to improving the program, securing new equipment and adding new technology to give students better learning experiences.

"When I got here, the department was pretty unstable," Dinkel said in a May 12, 2021, Guidon article at the time of his retirement from USD 489. "I say that because they used existing instructors to just fill in. When I came, it made the department more stable. We added digital communication programs, such



Photo by Jessica Augustine

MONUMENTAL FIGURE

During the staff's final meeting of the school year on May 26, 2021, former industrial technology teacher Chris Dinkel speaks to his colleagues, as he retires after 25 years at Hays High School. Dinkel died due to a brain aneurysm on Jan. 10 at Hays Medical Center.

as Auto-CAD, manual drafting and other technologies, such as screen printing, 3D printers and updated wood shop equipment."

In addition to teaching architecture, metals and woods classes, Dinkel founded the Hays High Industrial Technology Association (HHITA) electric car program and the Trapshooting Team, plus he led the design and construction of various projects at Hays High, including the current audio/video rooms.

Students who took classes with Dinkel learned many lessons to help them in their careers and in their lives, as Dinkel strived to empower his students.

"Dinkel wasn't just teaching students," Hays High graduate Jacob Nelson said. "He was teaching future adults. His dedication, skill and knowledge he brought to the shop class is something you can't find anywhere else. He was great at following through with students, and he never walked away, no matter how difficult the task was."

Staff members who worked with Dinkel, including current industrial technology teacher Alex Ford, also remember Dinkel's positive impact, including on Ford when he started at Hays High in 2019.

"He was a character," Ford said. "He was always energetic. He loved to teach. He knew his craft very well, and it was fun working with him. He helped me a lot my first two years that I was here. I owe a lot to Mr. Dinkel. He helped me develop my style of teaching, carrying on the energy he would have in the classroom."

Ford also recognized the work that Dinkel did for the school and the students.

"His impact on Hays High was big, and a lot of it was unseen," Ford said. "He'd help a lot with kids and families but never wanted the spotlight for it."

While Dinkel's impact at Hays High was monumental, according to his obituary published on Jan. 11 on Hays Post, "Despite Chris's many accolades and accomplishments, he was most proud of his family... Chris had an unwavering faith and strong moral compass that he always strived to pass on, living by the motto, 'because it's the right thing to do.'"

**Golden Belt Bank 2023-2024
High School Senior Scholarship**

**APPLY
NOW**



Golden Belt Bank
One Story at a Time



SAFETY RISK

KBI director presents about fentanyl risks to Hays teenagers

By Kennedy Fischer
26kfischer@usd489.com

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, students at Hays High School and Hays Middle School attended presentations by the director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Tony Mattivi, about the presence of and the dangers of fentanyl in Kansas.

USD 489 school resource officer Austin Spencer invited Mattivi to speak to the students because of the cases that he has personally dealt with involving drugs, saying he wanted to educate students.

"I don't want to have to find students dead or tell parents that you're not coming back," Spencer said. "I know that it's heavy, but I want to do what I can to protect you guys."

In his presentation, Mattivi said that, throughout the state, every county has had at least one case where fentanyl has been present, with deaths increasing drastically every year. While methamphetamine (meth) is the most common illegal drug used in Kansas, and fentanyl is third most common, fentanyl has led to more deaths than meth.

This is because just two milligrams of the synthetic opioid can cause death and because many people are not aware that there is fentanyl in what they are using. As Mattivi pointed out, it has been found laced in marijuana and it can be made to look like prescription drugs, including Adderall or Xanax, or colorful pills to entice younger kids to take it.

"Imaging taking a dollar bill and tearing it into 100 pieces," Mattivi told the students. "Every one of those pieces is about a milligram, so two pieces of that dollar bill are fatal."



Photo by Jessica Augustine

SERIOUS THREAT

At Hays High School on Jan. 17, Kansas Bureau of Investigation director Tony Mattivi speaks to staff and students about the deadliness of the synthetic opioid, fentanyl. USD 489's school resource officer Austin Spencer invited Mattivi to present at the high school and the middle school in order to educate students about fentanyl. "We cannot arrest enough drug dealers to keep this from happening," Mattivi said. "The only way we can get out of this problem is to educate people."

In addition to the small quantity of fentanyl that can be dangerous, Mattivi said that the Chinese and Mexican drug cartels who are making fentanyl obviously do not follow proper manufacturing procedures, as prescription drugs do when they are made, which he demonstrated with a video of fentanyl being made.

Because these illegal manufacturers do not stir the fentanyl mixture as thoroughly or as long as they should, the pills do not have consistent dosages. One pill may have a higher composition of fentanyl than another pill in the same batch.

Mattivi compared the pills to chocolate chip cookies; like a pack of chocolate chip cookies, not all of the cookies have the same amount of chocolate chips in it, just like fentanyl pills do not have the same amount of the drug in them. However, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, seven out of 10 pills that are tested by the DEA have potentially deadly dosages of fentanyl.

According to Mattivi, the drug cartels making the drugs and the drug dealers selling the drugs are only trying to get people addicted to fentanyl in order to get more customers and earn more profits, and they do not care about the lives lost to the Fentanyl.

"They are working for an organization that only cares about making money," Mattivi said.

To combat the spread of fentanyl, the KBI has trained drug dogs to sniff out fentanyl. This school year, Hays High did have a drug dog on campus to search for drugs in cars in the parking lot.

"Drugs are here in the community, unfortunately," Spencer said. "So, we're doing what we can do to mitigate that and keep it out of our schools."

In reaction to the KBI presentation, senior Lily Garrison said she felt it was beneficial for students to hear.

"I think it is a problem everywhere, and we aren't educated enough on the problem at hand," Garrison said.



**Northwestern
Printers, Inc.**

**PROUD SUPPORTER OF
HAYS HIGH SCHOOL**

☎ 785-625-1110 ☎ fax 785-625-1132

☎ toll free 1-800-808-1110

114 W. 9th St. • PO Box 1067 • Hays, KS 67601

✉ email: cservice@NorthwesternPrinters.com

💻 web: NorthwesternPrinters.com

STUDENT LIFE

Student Council hosts activities for annual Indian Call week



Photo by Katelyn Willemsen (Indian Call)



Photo by Arely Maldonado (Indian Call)

DECORATING

Helping prepare decorations, junior Kiera Dealy cuts a back-ground from a cardboard box on Jan. 18 during the Student Council Indian Call lock-in.

CROWNING

In between the girls varsity and the boys varsity basketball games on Jan. 26, senior Addie Otte and senior Eric Lucio join together on the court to take photos after being named Indian Call queen and king.

ASSEMBLY

Senior Indian Call candidates react as senior Addie Otte gets eliminated from a game of musical chairs during the candidate games on Jan. 26 during PRIDE Time.



Photo by Maddie Meis

By Clare Tholstrup

25ctholstrup@usd489.com

Hays High School's Indian Call dance happened on Saturday, Jan. 27, but there was a lot of planning and activities that took place beforehand.

To prepare, Student Council sponsored a lock-in on Jan. 18 to create decorations to fit the theme of "Gatsby's Gala: A Return to Old Hollywood."

"I wanted this theme because it's very original, and I knew StuCo would do an incredible job at executing it," sophomore class president Connor Werth said.

During Indian Call week from Jan. 22-26, there were spirit days that students could partake in to help their class get points, including Adam Sandler Day, Beach Vacay vs. Mountain Getaway Day, Dress as Your Favorite Holiday Day, Dress as Your Favorite Celebrity Day and Dress Like a Teacher Day.

The classes also competed for points at the class games during the pep assembly on Friday. In the end, the junior class won the Spirit Week competition.

"My favorite day was Dress Like a Teacher Day," junior Caleb King said. "Me and my gals [juniors Haley Roth and Karley Schlautman] dressed like Mr. [Luke] Lundmark, Mr. [Alan] Neal and Mr. [Matt] Brooks."

On Jan. 25, students voted for Indian Call king and queen, and the winners were announced in between the basketball games on Jan. 26. The candidates included seniors Brenlynn Albers, Ashlynn Banker, Hannah Klein, Madighan Norris and Addie Otte for queen and seniors Henry Fitzthum, Eric Lucio, Kyler Riggs, Jack Weimer and Ben Zimmerman for king. Otte and Lucio were named queen and king.

"I was totally shocked to win queen," Otte said. "All of the other candidates were really great, and I thought just any of us had a good shot at winning."

On Jan. 27, the Indian Call dance took place from 8-10:30 p.m., with 386 students attending the dance.

"This year went surprisingly smooth," StuCo sponsor Luke Lundmark said. "The theme was fun, the energy and positivity were great and the games assembly was fun. Our StuCo officers really led the way!"

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS

Our department allows you to navigate all things data and digital as you dive into designing your curriculum and creating your ideal career path.



TIGER MEDIA

(NETWORK)

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

As a growing news source in the region, Tiger Media Network provides real-world learning experiences for students in the convergent media world through audio, video, live productions, and written projects. Students also are paid for the creation of TMN content.



785-628-5373 fhsu.edu/informatics

TigerMediaNet.com

fhsutmn@gmail.com

@tigermedianet



- admiration

boundaries

communication

compromise

fairness

fun

equality

honesty
- independence

kindness

listening

respect

safety

support

trust

understanding



- abuse

cheating

control

dishonest

disrespect

fear

gaslighting

humiliation
- ignoring

insecurity

isolation

hostility

jealousy

manipulation

neglect

unfairness

In today's society, teenagers must understand the differences between healthy and unhealthy personal relationships

By Delia Dixon
26ddixon@usd489.com

High school is a time meant for discovering what kind of person you are. It is a time for trying new things and exploring different interests. It is a time for making mistakes and facing challenges. It is a time filled with excitement and uncertainty.

During this time, teenagers are learning how to build meaningful relationships while also finding themselves. It is common for high school friendships to be problematic, and even more so, for romantic relationships to become unhealthy. However, many students are unsure of when to draw the line when it comes to toxicity in their personal relationships. Toxic relationships impact students almost daily; however, some teenagers may not be aware that they are actually in a toxic relationship.

“I have had some people reach out to me about how to know if they are currently in an unhealthy relationship,” senior Jen Odom said. “A good resource for them to use is the Love Is Respect website [www.loveisrespect.org]. They have a lot of different quizzes people can take to help them in their specific situation. Just make sure that, if you are in an unhealthy relationship, to tell someone you trust and make a plan just in case it might escalate to something else.”

While not all students have personally experienced a toxic relationship, there are others who have witnessed those who face the negative effects of being in an unhealthy relationship.

“An example of a toxic relationship at Hays High I’ve heard or seen is when one of the partners in the relationship doesn’t let the other partner do anything that does not involve them,”

senior Kyzer Fox said. “Manipulating one of the partners through blackmail or ghosting is another common form of a toxic relationship I’ve witnessed here.”

While it is not realistic to expect that all unhealthy relationships can be avoided, it is crucial that students involved in toxic relationships improve their situations, perhaps by ending the bond, and learn from their past experiences. By seeing the causes and effects of a bad relationship, some students find that they are more susceptible to noticing signs or actions that could lead to another toxic relationship.

“I have been in a few unhealthy relationships in the past,” sophomore Johanna Jones said. “They have helped me be able to detect unhealthy traits in my relationships because I remember how awful and miserable I felt in those past relationships. Now that I’m in a stable and healthy relationship, it makes me realize that some of the people I’ve dated in the past did not respect me to the point that I respected them, and that was the reason why it failed in the end.”

It can be a challenge to maintain solid personal relationships in high school. However, it is also important to acknowledge that no relationship is perfect; differences and disagreements

are to be expected, but it is how the people involved communicate and compromise that makes the difference.

“We’re all growing and changing as we mature, and it’s easy to think that relationships should just be happy all the time,” Jones said. “I think it’s hard to say that anyone is perfect when it comes to favorable traits, especially because the world around us is filled with ideals that aren’t suitable for a long-lasting relationship, but there are definitely people out there who will treat you with respect and care without you having to ask.”

By Eleanor Bittel
25ebittel@usd489.com

Teenagers experience a wide range of personal relationships, from healthy and supportive ones to toxic and harmful ones.

A healthy relationship can be defined in many ways, but overall, it should provide a net of support and a foundation for growth with mutual care, open communication, respect and trust, according to www.youth.gov. In these relationships, teenagers should feel they are safe to express their opinions, maintain their independence and pursue their interests, encouraging personal growth and allowing both partners to thrive inside and outside of the relationship.

“One of the most important factors of a relationship revolves around respect,” said Hays High School graduate Soph Garrison, who has spoken to the Options Student Advisory Board in the past about toxic relationships. “A mutual respect for one another and each other’s boundaries is definitely a step in the right direction.”

On the other hand, an unhealthy relationship can be equally as hard to define. In society, “red flags” come in so many different forms; www.youth.gov goes on to explain toxic relationships may involve control, disrespect, manipulation, possessiveness and even violence. In such relationships, teenagers may feel drained, isolated and trapped, which can be detrimental to their well-being.

“There are so many signs that a relationship may be unhealthy,” said senior Harley Werth, a member of Hays High’s Jana’s Campaign and Options Student Advisory Board, which both work to promote healthy teenage relationships. “There are a ton of posters around the school explaining it, too. Verbal,

emotional and physical abuse or anything that makes you feel uncomfortable – and your significant other is aware of your discomforts and disregards them – can be considered abuse.”

A healthy personal relationship also involves effort from both people involved, although that may change from day to day.

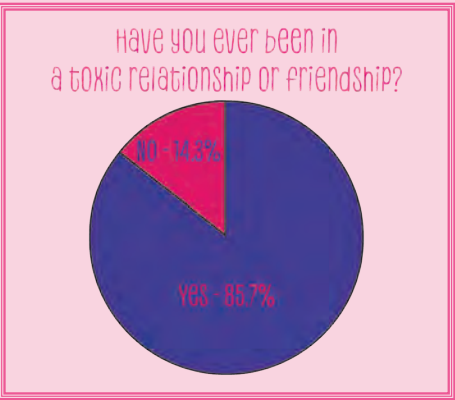
“It’s a common misconception that relationships should always be 50/50,” Garrison said. “In some cases, that is not always possible. Ideally, a relationship would be 100/100, but sometimes with the challenges of life and growth, this isn’t always the case. However, if one person is consistently giving 100, and the other person isn’t acknowledging that, or even aware of that, that is not an ideal situation to be in. You can only give away so much before you lose yourself entirely.”

No matter if the unhealthy relationship is a friendship or a romance, if teenagers feel like they are in a toxic relationship, they need to take steps to improve their situation, whether that means communicating their feelings with the other person – or ending the relationship.

“Getting out of an unhealthy relationship is never easy because there are so many things that can hold you back,” senior Arely Maldonado, a member of Options, said. “I would say to use your

resources as much as you can. There are so many people and organizations in the community who are more than willing to help. Options has a hotline number that is active 24/7 and posters, with numbers to text, around the school as well.”

Understanding the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships is crucial for teenagers. By fostering healthy relationships and avoiding toxic ones, teenagers can build the foundations for positive connections in their friendships and in their romances throughout their lives.



Information from a survey of students

What advice would you give teenagers about their personal relationships?

“The relationship should have both partners having their own minds and opinions on things. They should both be able to do what they want to do without the other having control over them, and they should be both mentally and physically safe.”

PE teacher Tony Crough

“Girls need to have higher standards. Guys need to meet those standards. They will; if you set the bar, they will. The problem in high school is girls let guys get away with too much. Boys are going to push the envelope as far as they can.”

PE teacher Kip Keeley

“Don’t take life too seriously and don’t get tied down to one particular person because these are your high school years. Have fun, meet new people, enjoy it.”

GPS Supervisor Nicole Muench

“I would say the best advice is not to worry too much about what your friends think and worry more about what you think because, in the end, that’s all that matters... are you happy?”

Math teacher Jerett Pfannenstiel

“My advice for high school relationships is this: friendship is key. Have a friendship, and that will blossom into something special.”

TSS Supervisor Vinny Walker

“To form healthy relationships in high school, form them with people who have similar interests to you, but also maybe are a little different than yourself. That will help you discover and learn more about who you are as a person.”

Agriculture teacher Nikole Winter

Praises

- Sushi
- Classical music
- "i before e, except after c"
- Photoshopped
- Wingstop
- "Ponyo"

Protests

- School water
- Public speaking
- Hallmark movies
- The Chiefs >:)
- Pop-up ads
- Creepers

Staff Playlist

Reagan Bates

"Your New Cuckoo"
by The Cardigans

Eleanor Bittel

"Fight the Vegans"
by WILLIS

Delia Dixon

"Ribs"
by Lorde

Kennedi Fischer

"From a Lover's Point of View"
by Zach Bryan

LeRoy Goodspeed

"Unlock It"
by ABRA

Feyden Hileman

"Saint Pablo"
by Kanye West

Eric Lucio

"Jerry Springer Based Freestyle"
by tenkay

Maddie Meis

"Apple Cider"
by beabadoobee

Justus Nelson

"Saturday Night Special"
by Lynryd Skynryd

Madighan Norris

"Reverie, L. 68"
by Claude Debussy

Kale Schwien

"Feels"
by Calvin Harris

Clare Tholstrup

"That's Rock 'N' Roll"
by Shaun Cassidy

Jake Wente

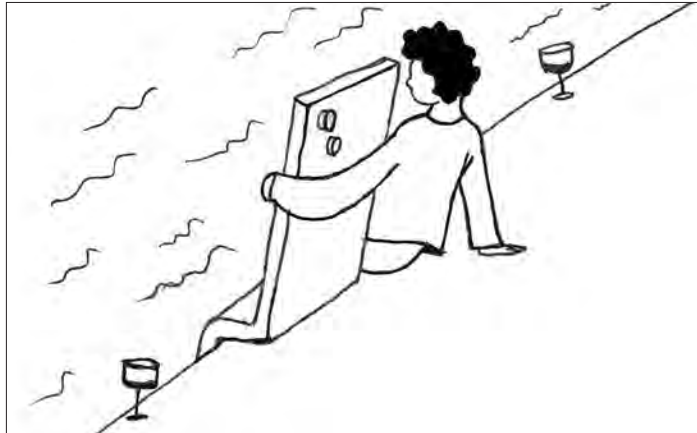
"Take It or Leave It"
by Cage The Elephant

Tavia Wynn-Coffman

"Youforia"
by Mac Miller

Jessica Augustine

"Confessions Part II"
by Usher



Cartoon by Eleanor Bittel

Social media negatively affects teens' personal relationships

Though social media platforms can be used positively, they are also at fault for some of society's most prominent concerns.

Ironically, this especially pertains to humans' abilities to establish meaningful connections with others. Now more than ever, "hook-up culture" and people's resistance to being in a committed relationship are becoming more normalized due to social media. To add to that, social media promotes unhealthy behaviors in relationships. It is because of social media and the internet that our generation has recurring issues in their personal relationships.

Through the decades, society's views on relationships have changed – just as other social views have. Views on romantic relationships and even friendships, though, have arguably changed for the worse. The biggest contributor of unhealthy ideals and the major promoter of toxic behavior is the platform TikTok, followed by Instagram. These platforms distribute content that some find "relatable," though the behaviors the posts display are not always healthy or realistic. The more people consume this media, the more these behaviors are normalized.

Continuing on, for social media users, there is a limitless amount of people to "choose" from. Social media has increased the dating pool significantly, which might sound great; however, it makes it harder for individuals to settle down. Thoughts of "What if...?" plague some users' minds. Social media has made dating more difficult. When everyone is available, why settle?

Lastly is the fact that people can find almost anything on the internet, including pornography. Not only can porn become addictive, but it physically changes the brain and our personalities. According to the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, viewing sexually explicit videos over a long period of time increases sexually aggressive behavior by six-fold. Watching porn creates unrealistic ideals about sex and love and can cause increases in violent behavior. In short, it is brain rot.

Society's "norms" concerning relationships are continuing to change due to chronic social media use and the internet. Whatever your preferences are, it is okay, but it is also important to ask yourself what you would prefer without your socials telling you what to do or what to think. Many social media posts are fabricated, and you must remember this when it comes to matters of your personal relationships. While social media is integrated in our lives more and more, we need to realize its detriments and know when to put the phone down.

Opinion of the Guidon Staff

Agree: 11

Disagree: 3

The Guidon Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Madighan Norris

Copy Editor/News Section Editor

Maddie Meis

Design/Multimedia Editor

Eric Lucio

Design/Multimedia Editor

Tavia Wynn-Coffman

Features Section Editor

Eleanor Bittel

Sports Section Editor

Kale Schwien

Entertainment Section Editor

Jacob Wente

Asst. Copy Editor

Reagan Bates

Asst. Copy Editor

Clare Tholstrup

Asst. Design/Multimedia Editor

LeRoy Goodspeed

Asst. News Section Editor

Kennedi Fischer

Asst. Features Section Editor

Delia Dixon

Asst. Opinions Section Editor

Justus Nelson

Asst. Sports/Entertainment Section Editor

Feyden Hileman

Faculty Adviser

Jessica Augustine

Information/Policies

The Guidon print edition is published seven times a year by the Digital Media Design and Production class at Hays High School in Hays, Kan., and it is printed by Northwestern Printers in Hays, Kan.

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.

Contact Us

Hays High School Guidon Newsmagazine
2300 E. 13th St.
Hays, Kan. 67601
785-623-2600
jaugustine@usd489.com (Adviser)
24mnorris@usd489.com (Editor-in-Chief)
www.hayshighguidon.com

LISTEN IN WITH ERIC

Past Usher album includes popular songs, but lacks deep meaning

With Usher's upcoming halftime performance at Super Bowl LVIII on Sunday, Feb. 11, I took the time to listen to his most famous album, "Raymond v. Raymond." This project was Usher's sixth studio album, released on March 26, 2010. With the album selling more than 329,000 copies in the first week and with it eventually going platinum, it is difficult to find someone who has not listened to at least one song from this album.

The expanded edition of the project has 22 tracks over the span of an hour and 32 minutes. This is a star-studded album, with features from Benny Blanco, Justin Bieber, Bun B, Jay-Z, Ludacris, Nicki Minaj, Pitbull, T.I. and will.i.am.

Usher begins with the opening track, "Monstar," which starts off slow and ominously, but picks up to the party-like R&B anthem more typical of Usher. He continues the melodic club songs throughout the project, with 2010s classics, such as "OMG (ft. will.i.am)," "DJ

Got Us Fallin' In Love (ft. Pitbull)" and "Somebody to Love (ft. Justin Bieber)."

Although I would not listen to all of the songs by choice, the highs of this project are in the upper echelon of R&B and party music. As mentioned, the classics from this album have been staples of my generation, as almost everyone grew up listening to these on the radio. In addition to the popular songs, there were a couple of tracks that were unfamiliar, but that I thoroughly enjoyed, such as "There Goes My Baby," "Pro Lover" and "Papers." Despite Usher's popularity, I still feel as though his pure vocal talent is underappreciated when talking about the best male voices of our time. The control, tone and soul he brings to the table is extraordinary.

With the album being a feel-good project with dance songs and love songs, there is not much room for any deeper meaning in the songs. The project fulfilled its purpose, though, having

multiple songs that are known around the world. However, I would not say that I would sit down and listen to this album all the way through for leisure. Even though I enjoy most of the tracks, there are a couple of skips on the album that become forgettable when talking about it as a whole. Whether or not every song is a huge hit, it is undeniable that this is one of the most influential and popular albums for the R&B genre in the 21st century.

Although I understand the popularity of this album, I was a little surprised to see Usher selected for the upcoming Super Bowl halftime show, as he has not been a major part of the music scene since the early 2010s. Nonetheless, I still think he will be a massive hit, and the nostalgia will be prominent. In addition, I expect Usher to perform at least three songs from this album, and I would not be surprised if he brings out a guest star, such as Lil Jon, Ludacris or Nicki Minaj.

Overall, I would rate this album an 8/10, and I encourage listeners to revisit this project and dive into the lesser-known songs before his Super Bowl performance.



By Eric Lucio
24elucio@usd489.com

First season of 'Percy Jackson' series impresses staff member

After a long wait, the "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" show is finally here.

The project started in December 2019 when Rick Riordan, the author of the popular "Percy Jackson" novels, pitched an adaptation of the books to Disney. By May 2020, Disney+ started work on a series based on the novels. Each season will cover one book, starting with the first book in the series, "The Lightning Thief."

The first season, which debuted on Dec. 19, follows the life of a 12-year-old boy named Percy Jackson. Within the first episode, Percy learns he is a demigod, which is a child of a god or goddess.

Percy is taken to Camp Half Blood, which is a training facility for demigods. While there, he becomes close with Annabeth Chase, who is the daughter of Athena, and Grover Underwood, who is a satyr, which is a mythological figure that has some features of a horse. The three are sent on a quest after Zeus accuses Poseidon of stealing his master bolt, in hopes of finding the weapon. In the other episodes of the first season, the trio continues to face many challenges.

The first season consisted of eight episodes, with the final episode of this season airing on Jan. 30.

As someone who grew up loving the "Percy Jackson" books, I thought the series was good. However, as all adaptations have, there are some inaccuracies in comparison to the actual books. Many fans have expressed their disappointment about this, but I think they forget this is a Disney series and there are some limits for what Disney will produce. Nevertheless, there are some scene changes that I do not think were necessary. Still, I enjoyed the storyline and also the visuals, as they feel as though they came straight from the book's pages.

Besides the plot, the actors gave phenomenal performances. In April of 2022, casting for Percy, Grover and Annabeth was announced. Walker Scobell, known as young Adam from "The Adam Project," plays the lead role

of Percy. Aryan Simhari portrays Grover, and Leah Sava Jeffries plays Annabeth.

Soon after the casting was announced, a controversy sparked within the fandom, claiming Jeffries was poorly cast as Annabeth, due to Annabeth not being as black in the novels, unlike the actress herself. Many people, including me and even the author, speculated this backlash was blatant racism. Riordan made a statement to combat the online arguing, stating, "Once you see Leah as Annabeth, she will become exactly the way you imagine Annabeth, assuming you give her that chance, but you refuse to credit that this may be true."

Despite the changes and the controversy, overall, I think the "Percy Jackson" series is entertaining so far, and I am sure many younger kids will love it. I am excited to see where this show goes in the future, and I am already anticipating the next season, if Disney continues the popular series.



By Maddie Meis
24mmeis@usd489.com

ADVERTISING



**automotive improvement specialists
window tinting**

Terry Gardner
2201 Drum Ave.
Hays, Kan. 67601
785-432-1941



**PROUD TO SUPPORT
OUR HAYS HIGH INDIANS**



Brian Ruder, Agent
1601 E 27th St
Hays, KS 67601
Bus: (785) 628-2151
bruder@amfam.com



American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies,
American Family Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
007250 - Rev. 1/17 ©2017 - 14805610



Amanda Eschliman, Owner
Dine-In, Carry-Out, Catering
740 E. Eighth St., Hays, Kan. 67601
785-625-3013

BMB Drywall and Repair, LLC

Brett Bittel
785-639-2060
brett.bittel@gmail.com





Build a New Tradition.

Connect with a youth in Ellis County by
volunteering as a Big Family like The Tippys!



**KANSAS
Big Brothers Big Sisters**
ELLIS COUNTY

KANSASBIGSISTERS.ORG



Great Plains Chiropractic
Dr. Mark Schupman
1301 Pine St.
Hays, Kan. 67601
785-625-7463

Treating patients with unique, hands on, gentle,
"no pain adjusting" for fifteen years.
Focusing on wellness, whole body health,
the influence the musculoskeletal system has
on the function of the entire body, and
how to achieve optimal health and wellness.
Treating patients of all ages, infants to elderly,
improving lives and making the world a healthier place.

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Boys Swimming



junior Marshall Sook

With the boys swimming season coming to an end soon, multiple swimmers have been in top form, with one of them being junior Marshall Sook.

Swimming competitively from seventh grade on, Sook has had plenty of time year-round to hone his skills.

"I would rather swim in the winter because of the short course in indoor pools even though it's cold," Sook said.

Due to multiple meets for the swimming team being cancelled because of winter weather, Sook has not had as many chances to show his skills, but in the meets he has competed in, he has placed in multiple events, including the 50-meter freestyle, the 100-meter freestyle, the 200-meter freestyle relay and the 400-meter freestyle relay.

While focusing on this season and on next season, Sook said he is unsure whether or not he wants to competitively swim in college.

"I'm not sure if I want to continue after high school," Sook said. "I'll just wait and find out."

POST-SEASON

Freshman offensive lineman plays in bowl game

By Tavia Wynn-Coffman
25twynncoffman@usd489.com

On Dec. 18, freshman Gus Corsair traveled to Naples, Fla., to participate in the Football University (FBU) Freshman All-American Bowl.

The All-American Bowl is an all-star game for high school freshmen that was sponsored by Adidas this year, but that has been played since 2009. The game also serves as an opportunity for player development, giving 64 freshman football players the chance to compete against others from across the country and to showcase their talents.

"I wanted to play in the game because I thought it would be a great opportunity to get some exposure," Corsair said. "The competition was good because it was the top freshmen in the country."

To be selected, players had to send in game film or participate in football camps, then they were evaluated over the course of about a month. Corsair said he learned that he was selected through a text message that was sent to him.

"My reaction was surprised and excited," Corsair said.

For Corsair to play in the bowl game, there were a few requirements beforehand. First, he had to check with the Kansas State High



Photo by Ava Schoenberger (Indian Call)

IMPACTFUL FRESHMAN

In a Sept. 22 home game, freshman Gus Corsair, wearing No. 66, faces off with a Garden City opponent. Corsair recently played in the Football University Freshman All-American Bowl after being selected to the all-star game.

School Activities Association (KSHSAA) to ensure there were no rules against him playing in the game. Also, he had to get a release form signed by principal Shawn Henderson, saying he would be absent from school, and he had to keep up with his schoolwork.

Corsair had to be in Naples by Dec. 15 to check in with the program, get his jersey and attend practices. The practices were about four hours long with one 10 a.m. break after two hours, where

the players would eat, and then would have another two-hour practice.

In the bowl game, two teams, Team Electric and Team Impact, faced off. Corsair was selected to be part of Team Impact, and he played every snap for Team Impact at left guard. Corsair started in 10 of Hays High School's varsity football games this season, playing left tackle on the offensive line.

"Gus has been with us since June, so he's relatively new to us," Hays High School football coach Tony Crough said. "Right away, we saw him, and he just works. He's always working hard to get better."

Along with the freshman All-American Bowl, FBU also presents camps for high school players, where college football coaches can evaluate their skills. The camps are generally held in the South, partnered with well-known coaches giving their insight on the game of football.

"This experience has helped me gain a little bit of exposure to colleges," Corsair said. "After the game, a few coaches followed me on Twitter. It has also helped me with my journey by just giving me more knowledge about the game because the coaches were some of the top coaches in the country."



**YOU'VE
NEVER HAD
IT SO GOOD!**

333 W 8TH ST

(785) 625-7114



**TACO
SHOP**

Est. 1970

**Come sit with us...
and read the
Hays High
Guidon!**



*Newcomer
Furniture*

F.A.M.

119 S Main St WaKeeney, KS

785-743-2982

ON-TREND

With 2024 just starting, the Guidon staff reviews the most popular trends for teenagers from 2023

Headphones

Since the 2010s, headphones have been changing to suit the needs of consumers. Apple's first generation AirPods in 2016 changed the market for wireless earbuds and headphones.

In 2023, over-ear wireless headphones became a sought-after item. Apple's AirPods Maxes, Bose Quiet Comforts and different types of Sony headphones were some of the most popular. Buyers enjoy the comfort, quality and noise cancellation of the products.

"I recently got the AirPods Maxes, which I am super excited about because they are much more comfortable than my old earbuds," senior Carsen Riat said. "They are also pretty stylish, and I can pair them with different outfits."

By Reagan Bates &
Jacob Wente
25rbates@usd489.com &
24jwente@usd489.com

Trends come and go every year, with old ones from past years making recurrences or new ones starting throughout the year. In 2023, there were multiple trends that became very popular among students.

Due to social media, especially TikTok and Instagram, these trends become widespread because, when people share the new products that they found or the different styles that they wear, everyone who sees the posts wants to try the same things. Then, once teenagers see the new trends, those items become familiar with their parents because their teens ask for this thing or that thing.

With all these things becoming popular in 2023, it is no telling what will become trendy for 2024.

Vinyl

In the past year, vinyl records became a highly sought-after item for the first time since the 1980s.

During the week leading up to Christmas of 2023, 2.054 million vinyl albums were sold. Also, in the United Kingdom, vinyl sales for 2023 were at the highest levels that they have been since 1990.

The past year was the 17th consecutive year that vinyl sales in the United States have risen, and they continue to increase.

Many people enjoy thrifting old records, while others like to purchase brand new records from modern artists. Musical artist Taylor Swift sold the largest number of records in the United States in 2023, followed by singer Lana Del Rey.

Stanleys

In recent years, reusable cups became popular due to their convenience and sustainability. In 2023, sales of Stanley's "Quencher" tumbler skyrocketed.

Stanley tumblers come in different sizes, but the most popular are the 30 oz. and 40 oz. As a result of the cups being featured in TikToks, demand for them has heavily increased. In just one year, Stanley witnessed a 275 percent increase in Quencher sales alone, and it is estimated that they made more than \$750 million in 2023.

Stanley continues to keep consumers buying their cups by releasing new colors and different designs of the tumblers frequently.

Styles

From Y2K to "coquette," 2023 saw different styles in clothing in general.

The Y2K, or Year 2000, aesthetic includes baggy jeans, tight tops and bulky layers. However, some of the trend includes fabrics, such as lace, leather, satin and sheers, in dark, romantic colors.

Another trend is the "coquette" style, which is an ultra-feminine aesthetic. It focuses on the idea that you can never have too much going on with your style and rejects minimalism. It suggests a more romanticized outlook on life and fills people's everyday life with frilly lace, pointelle knits, satin ribbons and soft pink color palettes.



UGGs made a significant comeback in 2023 since their last wave of popularity in the early 2000s.

In 2023, UGG brand's net sales were around \$1.9 million. The most popular styles were the Ultra Mini Classic Boot and the Tasman Slipper. UGGs became popular again among users on social media for their comfortable nature and adherence to the Y2K style, which also made a comeback.

"I got my UGGs as a Christmas gift from my brother," senior Andrea Zarate said. "He knew I had wanted some because of how cute and comfy they are. I am super happy I got them because now I can style them for cute outfits."



Student Statistics

What was your favorite trend from 2023? (in a poll of 45 students)

42% - "Stanley Cups"
26% - "UGGs"
19% - "Vinyls"
13% - "Headphones"



Future Films

Feb. 2
"Argyle"
"Scrambled"

Feb. 6
"Gods of the Deep"
"Love... Reconsidered"

Feb. 9
"Lisa Frankenstein"

Feb. 14
"Bob Marley: One Love"
"Madame Web"
"Players"
"Winnie-the-Pooh: Blood & Honey"

Feb. 16
"Land of Bad"
"This Is Me... Now"

Feb. 19
"Sesame Street"

Feb. 23
"Drive-Away Dolls"



Witty Wisecracks

What is the best outfit for Feb. 2?
A tu-tu.

What would you get if you crossed Feb. 2 with a Christmas drink?
Ground Nog Day!

What did one snake say to the other on Valentine's Day?
Give me a hug and a hiss!

What is Cupid's favorite band?
KISS!

How can you save money on Valentine's Day?
Be single.

What do you say when someone dies between Feb. 19 and March 20?
Rest in Pisces.

Can February march?
No, but April may.