

Vol. 99
Issue 5

The Guidon

March
2025

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



Under the Influence

American attitude with alcohol
affects consumption by teens

Pages 6-7

Contents

March 2025 | Volume 99 | Issue 5

IN EVERY ISSUE

2 | Student Spotlight

8 | Staff Editorial

11 | Athlete Spotlight

NEWS

3 | Some district leaders, board members disagree on capital outlay use

5 | Administrator set to retire after seven years at Hays High School

FEATURES

6-7 | Drinking culture in United States differs from other countries

OPINIONS

9 | Staff member argues against elimination of diversity policies

SPORTS

10 | Student section increases participation, boosts morale at games

11 | Basketball fans anticipate approach of March Madness

ENTERTAINMENT

12 | With responsibilities, students rarely engage in hobbies, like crafting

ON THE COVER



Cover photo illustration by Eleanor Bittel

ORGANIZATIONS

Leadership Team welcomes eighth graders, as they prepare for high school next year

By Cason Grezeszak
25cgrezeszak@usd489.com

On Monday, March 3, juniors and seniors on Leadership Team gathered to show the incoming freshmen what opportunities they will have at Hays High School for next year.

About 80 members of Leadership Team split up to welcome small groups of eighth graders. Team members took the eighth graders to different student organizations' and athletic teams' tables during an activity fair in Gym A and led them to a session about pre-enrollment with the counselors in the Multi-Purpose Room.

"The main change for this year was to only have a counselor session and activity fair for the eighth grade visit instead of tours and lunch, due to moving to the new school," counselor Troy Dale, who oversees Leadership Team, said.

These visits help the eighth graders to familiarize themselves with options in high school for classes, clubs and sports, and they also help the Leadership Team members to demonstrate leadership skills.

"I enjoy being a part of Leadership Team because it feels like I've come full circle,"

junior Savannah Clingan said. "I remember seeing the Leadership members when I came to the high school in eighth grade. I thought they were so cool and wanted to be one of them when I got older. Leadership has taught me the importance of confidence in myself. I have grown as a person and a student."

Along with leading the eighth grade visit, in the past years, Leadership Team members have assisted freshman at the beginning of the year at orientation.

To be on the Leadership Team, students are nominated by their teachers. At the end of the year, the counselors ask teachers to nominate incoming juniors and seniors who are not already organization members. Students must be juniors

or seniors who exemplify admirable qualities. Once accepted, new members normally attend the new student orientation in August to learn about their responsibilities on the team.

"Leadership Team helps instill skills in students that will benefit them through their lifetime," Dale said. "Leadership Team activities help establish a relationship between upperclassmen, freshmen and new students with making the transition to Hays High School."



Photo by Haley Roth (Indian Call)

FOLLOW THE LEADER

With juniors Ava Biggs and Jenna Kisner leading them, a group of eighth graders listens to senior Samara DeWitt talk about Environmental Club. Members of Leadership Team escorted the eighth graders through the activities fair in Gym A during the eighth grade visit.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a club that was introduced to Hays High School this year. The organization helps students to learn leadership qualities for their futures, whether personally or professionally. The president of the Hays High chapter, junior Oaklye Wichers, was recently elected as the District B secretary.

junior
Oaklye Wichers

Why did you want to run for district secretary for FCCLA?

"I wanted to be District B secretary because I have found a strong interest in FCCLA, and being a district officer seemed like a step in the right direction for my involvement."

What did you have to do to get elected?

"To get elected, I had to prepare a speech about

FCCLA, and then, when we got there (Downs), I had to take a quiz about FCCLA, give my speech and answer two on-the-spot questions they asked me."

What will your role as district secretary entail?

"My role will be to attend every district officer meeting, and I will time how long the meeting is and take notes on it, then eventually write a summary of the meeting and what we talked about/accomplished."

How did you feel after being elected?

"I was very excited and honored when I got elected. I worked really hard on my application process and on my speech, so being able to achieve my goal of being a district officer felt amazing."

Reporting by Kennedy Fischer

FUNDING

NEED OR WANT?

District officials, community members debate use of capital outlay funds

By Kennedy Fischer
26kfischer@usd489.com

In May of 2022, Hays voters approved a school bond for \$143.5 million to build a new high school, in addition to renovating other buildings. This February, though, the USD 489 Board of Education approved the use of capital outlay funds to finish projects related to the new high school – something that some board members and some Hays residents are concerned about, given that the bond was supposed to cover most of the costs.

Capital outlay in Kansas school districts are funded by local property taxes, and if districts need more funding and are eligible, by the state government. Hays is considered “wealthy,” based on property taxes, so the district is not eligible for extra state funding.

According to the Kansas State Department of Education, “The following expenditures may be paid from the capital outlay fund: acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, remodeling, additions to furnishing, maintaining and equipping of school district property and equipment necessary for school district purposes.” Capital outlay cannot be used for expenses like instructional supplies or staff salaries.

At August and September board meetings, the board reviewed capital outlay projects and approved the budget, with \$6,886,868 being set aside for capital outlay for 2024-2025 in the district, with \$1,935,000 of that for the new high school building. At the time of the approval, according to a Sept. 10 Hays Post article, members of the public and of the board questioned the expenses.

On Feb. 3, the Board of Education revisited the capital outlay fund expenses. Additional expenses proposed from capital outlay included two scoreboards/videoboards for the gyms at the new high

school building, one scoreboard/videoboard for the new football field and one scoreboard for the softball field at a cost of \$750,000; a digital marquee on 13th Street for \$100,000; a scorer’s table for basketball for \$60,000; and new wrestling mats for \$46,000.

With changes to prices on the original expenses and the additional items, the total for capital outlay expenses for the new high school building totals \$2,482,650, which is \$547,650 more than originally budgeted in August. At the Feb. 17 board meeting, the board approved the five additions, except for the weight room equipment expense of \$146,710, which will come from the bond.

“[Assistant superintendent] Chris [Hipp] and I have put a lot of hours into this and talked to a lot of people,” superintendent Ron Wilson said at the Feb. 3 board meeting. “We really feel this gives all of our students and staff everything they need to have success in the classroom and on the athletic fields.”

Shanda Preston, a parent of a junior at Hays High, said that the new school was a necessity and understands paying for it if it helps bring better facilities.

“We needed a new school so I’m willing to contribute,” Preston said. “And, since it’s not just property tax and it’s sales

tax, then it makes it better because everyone is contributing.”

Despite that, not all board members or community members agree with the additional purchases from capital outlay funds for the new school. Board member Derek Yarmer noted the increasing expenses from capital outlay compared to the original budget and voted against all four additional purchases, saying they should have come from the bond funds.

“I still think there are things in capital outlay that are wants and not needs,” Yarmer said at the Feb. 17 board meeting. “Until all of the buildings are where they need to be, I don’t think I would support some of the indulgences like the marquee, for one.”

THEN VERSUS NOW: CAPITAL OUTLAY FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL

AUGUST 2024 PROJECTIONS

\$850,000 - Tennis Courts
\$800,000 - Street Improvements
\$150,000 - Telephone System
\$50,000 - Athletic Training Equipment
\$30,000 - Competition Gym Equipment
\$30,000 - Residential Appliances
\$15,000 - Consession Stand Equipment
\$10,000 - Kiln
\$1,935,000 - TOTAL COSTS

FEBRUARY 2025 PROJECTIONS

\$763,450 - Street Improvements
\$750,000 - Scoreboards/Videoboards
\$665,200 - Tennis Courts
\$100,000 - Digital Marquee
\$60,000 - Gym Scorer’s Table
\$50,000 - Athletic Training Equipment
\$46,000 - Wrestling Mats
\$30,000 - Residential Appliances
\$18,000 - Kiln
\$2,482,650 - TOTAL COSTS

Information from USD 489

PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR HAYS HIGH INDIANS



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



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

THEATER



Photo by Lizzy Vajnar (Indian Call)

THREE FATES

Junior Erin Ruder, freshman EJ Fenwick and senior Addy Brull play the parts of the three Fates.

LEAD ROLES

Seniors Oscar Flores and Jordan Aschenbrenner star in "Hadestown" as Orpheus and Eurydice, with Flores showing Aschenbrenner how much he would do for her love.



Photo by Lizzy Vajnar (Indian Call)

Students perform 'Hadestown' in March

By Katelyn Willemssen
25kwillemssen@usd489.com

On March 6-9, the Theatre Department presented the Spring Musical, "Hadestown: Teen Edition."

The cast and crew made the story of Orpheus and Eurydice come to life. As Orpheus (senior Oscar Flores) and Eurydice (senior Jordan Aschenbrenner) fall in love, they are tested by the god of the underworld, Hades (junior Bryson Weber). But, with the help of Hermes (senior Caleb King), Persephone (junior Johanna Jones) and the three Fates (senior Addy Brull, junior Erin Ruder and freshman EJ Fenwick), Orpheus fights for the woman who he loves.

"A few of us got to see the show on Broadway in May, and it's only available for high schools, so feeling like we get an exclusive opportunity to produce the show gives it an extra level of special," musical director Alex Underwood said. "It's unusual for a musical as successful as 'Hadestown' to be available so soon, so doing one closer to its production date gives it a really fresh feel for a high school."

With a set that included two floor pieces and a spinning wheel in the middle of the stage, the show came to life with a small but mighty cast.

"I was so excited for musical to open," Brull said. "Rehearsals were super fun, and I loved collaborating with my two other Fates."

ADVERTISING

BMB

Drywall and Repair, LLC

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



ICT INSURANCE
GROUP
Health | Life | Medicare

Proud supporter of
Hays High Athletics



Abby Staley, Licensed Broker
(785) 269-7671



Gutierrez
MEXICAN RESTAURANT
TEX-MEX ♦ DRINKS ♦ FAMILY



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



Newcomer
Furniture
F.A.M.

119 S Main St WaKeeney, KS
785-743-2982

ADMINISTRATION

Activities director announces upcoming retirement

By Kale Schwien
25kschwien@usd489.com

After 32 years in education, on Feb. 4, activities director/assistant principal Lance Krannawitter announced his upcoming retirement from Hays High School at the end of this school year.

Krannawitter grew up in Hoxie, then attended Fort Hays State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in elementary and middle school (K-8) education, and later, a master's degree in Instructional Technology.

"I chose Fort Hays State University because it was close to my home in Hoxie," Krannawitter said.

While finishing his bachelor's degree, Krannawitter student taught at Bickerdyke Elementary School in Russell and also was an assistant coach for the football team.

Once he earned his bachelor's degree, Krannawitter decided to serve in the U.S. Peace Corps, so that he could travel the world while also teaching.

"I taught science at Mbabulo Secondary School in Tanzania, East Africa, while serving in the U.S. Peace Corps for two and a half years," Krannawitter said.

Following that, he taught English as a Second Language (ESL) in Seoul, South Korea, for one year and worked as an ESL textbook editor for one year.

After his time abroad, Krannawitter returned to the United States to teach.

"I taught science, reading, math and technology and coached football, basketball and track at Luray-Lucas Middle School for eight years," Krannawitter said. "I also drove the bus for games and routes and worked as a custodian during two summers



Photo by Jessica Augustine

MEMORABLE MOMENT

On May 14, 2024, activities director Lance Krannawitter helps Lewis Auto Group's Kaleb Cross, as they unveil the Western Athletic Conference Champions Cup, which Hays High School earned last year for the first time in school history. "What I will remember the most are the accomplishments of our student athletes, teams and coaches," Krannawitter said after announcing his retirement at the end of this school year.

at the same school."

After one year as a science and technology teacher at Riley County Junior/Senior High School, Krannawitter wanted to get closer to home and to use his master's degree, so he moved to Colby, where he worked at different levels for the next 12 years. First, he served as the head principal at Colby Elementary School for seven years, then he worked as the assistant principal at Colby Middle School for two years. Finally, he moved to the high school, where he was the

activities director/assistant for Colby for three years before coming to Hays High for the 2018-2019 school year.

"When this position opened, I took a chance and got the job," Krannawitter said. "I always wanted to work in either a 5A or a 6A school."

For the last seven years at Hays High, Krannawitter has served as activities director/assistant principal and has accumulated many memories.

"What I will remember the most at Hays High are the accomplishments of our student athletes, teams and coaches," Krannawitter said. "We're not done yet, but we've won 27 WAC [Western Athletic Conference] championships, been to five final fours in state basketball, golf, track, football and baseball and qualified 12 to 13 different sports for" state."

Beyond that, Krannawitter said that he has had other fond memories, including getting to watch his son play sports for the Indians and helping the teams throughout his year at Hays High.

"My favorite parts were being able to watch my son, Jason, who graduated in 2021, finish his athletics career, sophomore through senior, and go to state in golf and basketball," Krannawitter said. "Other than that, working with great coaches and administrators and working with students were also my favorite parts."

When the school year ends and his retirement is official, Krannawitter said he is unsure of his plans.

"After I retire, I don't just plan to sit around at home," Krannawitter said. "I plan to work, but I don't know what that's going to be right now, but I still plan to work."



BREAKS

EATERY & BAR

3203 VINE STREET
(785) 621-2662

info@breakseatery.com



Toxic Culture

Opinion: Approaches to alcohol consumption differs between American culture and other countries, with Americans drinking heavily to get intoxicated

Although teen drinking has recently reached record lows, it is still one of the leading causes of death in teenagers. Whether directly from overconsumption or more indirectly from drunk driving or other actions, alcohol continues to wreak havoc in teenagers' lives.

Underage drinking rates continue to drop, so why do we still see significant issues with teens abusing alcohol? Perhaps it has less to do with the number of teens who drink and more to do with the unhealthy culture about alcohol in America – and in our Kansas communities.

Much of the drinking in America, especially on holidays like St. Patrick's Day, is for the sole purpose of getting drunk. While people in some European countries, such as France, Italy, Portugal and Spain, may drink "all day," they approach their drinking much differently. Because there are less restrictions and less stigma surrounding alcohol, drinking in those countries is an everyday experience, but drinking is done *slowly* and in *moderation*.

The National Library of Medicine analyzed these cultural differences, categorizing a country's attitude toward alcohol as either "wet" or "dry."

In a wet culture, according to the article, "Alcohol is integrated into daily life and activities (e.g., is consumed with meals) and is widely available and accessible. In these cultures, abstinence rates are low, and wine is largely the beverage of preference. European countries bordering the Mediterranean have traditionally exemplified wet cultures."

On the other hand, in a dry culture, "Alcohol consumption is not as common during everyday activities (e.g., it is less



By Delia Dixon
26ddixon@usd489.com

frequently a part of meals) and access to alcohol is more restricted. Abstinence is more common, but when drinking occurs it is more likely to result in intoxication; moreover, wine consumption is less common. Examples of traditionally dry cultures include the Scandinavian countries, the United States and Canada."

In 2019, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency found that the United States ranked 35th in the world when it came to liters of alcohol consumed per capita. Even though that is relatively low, in 2016, the World Health Organization found the rates of alcoholism in each country for people 15 years and above. In this data, the United States ranked fifth for highest rates of alcohol misuse in the world. While Americans may drink less quantities than other countries, when they do drink, it is more likely to result in alcohol misuse.

In Kansas, in particular, certain events are equated with increased alcohol misuse. One of the biggest annual events in Hays, Oktoberfest, has always centered around drinking heavily. St. Patrick's Day has also become a day of drinking for many young Kansans, as they flock to Manhattan for "Fake Patty's Day."

Starting in 2007, college students in Manhattan started celebrating St. Patrick's Day on the Saturday before Spring Break, due to the holiday often falling during the week of Spring Break. Fake Patty's Day now draws thousands of people to the Manhattan area, where Aggieville bars feature drink specials and special events. While this celebration may be aimed at college students, many high school students also attend.

This event has also led to numerous arrests and citations each year. According to The Manhattan Mercury, "Police in 2024 arrested 57 people on Fake Patty's Day, the most since at least 2017. They issued 260 citations, well above the numbers in the previous two years."

Drinking seems to be the norm for Kansas residents on St. Patrick's Day; while the national average for St. Patrick's Day was three drinks, Kansas residents said they typically drink five.

While this survey did not include underage drinkers, it is important to understand the influence that parents have on children's alcohol consumption. In the November 2023 Journal of Adolescent Health, it said, "Adolescents had approximately four times greater odds of drinking if their parents reported either frequent drinking or binge drinking than adolescents whose parents did not drink or drank but did not binge drink."

Rewiring an entire country's approach to alcohol is an enormous task. Drunkenness acts as a coping mechanism for too many Americans. Binge drinking is especially prevalent in college students, which has become a sort of expected trait for the majority of young adults. Perhaps part of these habits stem from peer pressure. Another factor is that such heavy restrictions on alcohol through adolescence leaves young adults unable to understand how to drink in moderation.

By accepting this unhealthy relationship with alcohol, Americans are setting themselves, and future generations, up for failure when it comes to overcoming their inability to drink responsibly. Instead of imposing further restrictions on alcohol, we must first address the unhealthy culture that surrounds it.

Photos courtesy of Adobe Stock



Drinking Statistics

In Kansas students in Grades 6, 8, 10 and 12 complete the Kansas Communities That Care survey annually and anonymously, which, according to the kctcddata.org, "provides valuable insights on the health risk behaviors and opinions of students in your county, district and schools." Here is data from 2024 for just Grade 12 for Ellis County versus the average of all Kansas counties.

Percent of students who drank alcohol at least once in the past 30 days:

Ellis County - 21.5 percent
Kansqs - 18.9 percent

Percent of students who drank at least five alcoholic drinks in a row in the last two weeks:

Ellis County - 14.1 percent
Kansqs - 9.9 percent

Percent of your friends have drank alcohol at least once in the past month without their parents/guardians knowing about it:

Ellis County - 36.5 percent
Kansqs - 40.2 percent

Percent of adults in your community who think it is "wrong" for kids your age to drink alcohol:

Ellis County - 17.5 percent
Kansqs - 24.0 percent

Underage Perspective

"Amber" is a 17-year-old Hays High School student, who shared that she consumes alcohol, despite being younger than the legal drinking age. Her name has been changed to protect her identity.

How often do you drink alcohol, and how often do you get drunk?
"Not super regularly – usually only on vacations or for special events. Rarely do I drink for no reason. I don't like to get super drunk. I always stop before I get really intoxicated."

What reasons do you have for drinking alcohol?
"I drink for the fun; I don't have any bad habits or drink for my mental health or anything unhealthy."

How has your parents' attitude towards alcohol consumption influenced your drinking habits?
"My parents allow me to drink. They know that I am responsible and know my limits. I feel comfortable talking about alcohol with my parents, and I think that helps me keep a healthy relationship."

How do you feel about current drinking laws and regulations?
"I think the age being 21 is unnecessary; kids are drinking anyways, and it's creating unhealthy drinking habits by having to be sneaky about it. Other countries have lowered their drinking age, and it has benefited young adults."

What issues do you see with drinking culture in Hays and/or in America, in general?
"I see a lot of unhealthy drinking habits among people. Again, that could stem from the legal age or poor mental states. I think a lot of high schoolers don't understand the dangers of alcoholism and don't take it seriously enough. When they realize they have a problem, they don't know what to do about it. Who do you call when it's not legal and your parents won't allow it?"

How do you think your habits will change as you get older?
"I'll probably drink more often once it's legal for me to do so, but I don't see myself becoming unhealthy."



Praises

- Ben & Jerry's
- Girl Scout cookies
- Quill & Scroll book drive
- Cheese sandwiches
- Spotify Premium
- Whales
- Fetty Wap
- Vocal stims
- Iced dirty chai latte
- Hay Day

Protests

- Making us go to school when it's freezing
- Men wearing no-show socks
- Unnecessary concurrent credit
- Preparing for college
- Chemistry
- Fire drills
- Tornado drills
- Emilia Perez
- Ruby Franke
- Front office line

Staff Playlist

Alijah Arias

"Second Hand News"
by Fleetwood Mac

Reagan Bates

"Mother"
by Pink Floyd

Eleanor Bittel

"Hey"
by Pixies

Hank Corsair

"Liar"
by Jelly Roll

Delia Dixon

"Scott Street"
by Phoebe Bridgers

Kennedi Fischer

"Just a Boy"
by Backseat Lovers

Cason Grezeszak

"August 10"
by Julie Doiron

Kale Schwein

"Blue"
by Yung Kai

Brayden Staley

"We Built This City"
by Starship

Clare Tholstrup

"White Rabbit"
by Jefferson Airplane

Katelyn Willemsen

"Ghost of Chicago"
by Noah Floersch

Tavia Wynn-Coffman

"Radio Ga Ga"
by Queen

Jessica Augustine

"Don't You (Forget About Me)"
by Simple Minds



Cartoon by Eleanor Bittel

While tempting, alcohol use among teens is problematic

With St. Patrick's Day and Spring Break approaching, along with warmer weather, teens may be enticed to celebrate, especially with older friends, by consuming alcohol at various events, but they need to be aware of the consequences of those actions.

In the United States, to consume alcohol legally, people must be at least 21, but, according to the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 33.1 percent of young adults ages 12 to 20 in the United States have reported drinking alcohol. However, the legal drinking age was set at 21 to reduce the harm caused by alcohol consumption, including poor decisions, negative consequences and health issues.

First, parts of the brain are not fully developed until a person is in his or her mid-20s – such as the prefrontal cortex that helps to regulate actions, emotions and impulses. In adults, alcohol impairs decision making and impulse control, but in adolescents, the ability to make good decisions and control their impulses is much more difficult due to the lack of the brain's development.

Those bad decisions and hasty actions can lead to negative consequences. If caught drinking underage, teens can get either a Minor in Possession (MIP) or Minor in Consumption (MIC) citation. For an MIP, minors may be charged with a criminal offense, with that, most of the time, being a misdemeanor. However, an MIC is treated more seriously than an MIP. Consequences of an MIC include fines up to \$2,000, driver's license suspension or revocation, jail time, community service and mandatory alcohol awareness classes. These convictions will also show up on teens' records, which can affect participating in school activities or sports, getting scholarships or getting jobs.

Beyond that, alcohol consumption in young people can have negative health effects. Drinking alcohol relates to having increased anxiety and depression, and alcohol use can lead to Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD), which impairs the ability to control or to stop alcohol consumption. Research also shows that teen drinking may have effects on cognitive functioning, memory and academic performance. And, of course, drinking alcohol at a young age can increase the risk of adult alcohol dependency, which can cause very serious long-term health issues.

While drinking underage may seem enticing, it is important for young adults to realize the seriousness of it. Impaired decisions and negative consequences can lead to long-term effects. Events such as St. Patrick's Day and Spring Break are meant to be celebrated, but there are safer alternatives.

Opinion of the Guidon Staff

Agree: 3

Disagree: 9

The Guidon Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Tavia Wynn-Coffman

Copy Editor/Entertainment Section Editor

Clare Tholstrup

Copy Editor

Brayden Staley

Design Editor

Eleanor Bittel

Managing Editor

Katelyn Willemsen

Multimedia Editor

Alijah Arias

Online Editor

Reagan Bates

Online Editor

Kale Schwien

News Section Editor

Kennedi Fischer

Features Section Editor

Delia Dixon

Sports Section Editor

Hank Corsair

Staff Member

Cason Grezeszak

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, 2022 and 2024; 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, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Other policies are 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
25twynncoffman@usd489.com
www.hayshighguidon.com



RANDOM THOUGHTS WITH REAGAN

Columnist shares top 'Brat Pack' movies, in addition to her other thoughts

Feb. 9 1:26 a.m. I love eggs benedict so much. Yum, yum, yum.

Feb. 17 6:25 p.m. I just made the most delicious cookies I have ever had. They are very large coffee cake cookies, and I would highly recommend them.

Feb. 24 12:32 a.m. In honor of the 40th anniversary of the release of "The Breakfast Club" – thanks, Clare Tholstrup, for the information – I want to rank some of the "Brat Pack" movies this month. (For those who are not aware, the Brat Pack was a group of young actors who appeared together in several popular movies in the 1980s.) Please do not take this as an official ranking; it is completely my biased opinion. LOL!

1. "The Breakfast Club" (1985) (duh)

This is genuinely one of the greatest movies of all time and one of my personal favorite movies. I believe that each of the five main teenage characters was perfectly cast, and I love every one of the actors and actresses in the movie. I also



By Reagan Bates
25rbates@usd489.com

think that this movie stands the test of time and definitely should be enjoyed for generations to come.

2. "Sixteen Candles" (1984)

Another wonderful movie that stands the test of time is "Sixteen Candles." It includes the beautiful Molly Ringwald and also Anthony Michael Hall, who both were in "The Breakfast Club" as well, and I think the characters are all super relatable. I like the storyline a lot, and the plot feels very complete.

3. "Pretty In Pink" (1986)

This movie is a close second to "Sixteen Candles," however, it falls short because I do not like the storyline as much. At the end, I just feel a little bad for Ducky because I felt like he was strung along

through the entire movie. However, THE Andrew McCarthy is in the movie, and I think this film was what sparked my love for that man.

4. St. Elmo's Fire (1985)

This movie was good, however, I just

felt like there was too much happening. I love all of the actors and actresses (especially Andrew McCarthy), but I feel like there were too many stories at once. It did keep my attention throughout the entirety of the film, and I liked the stories that were presented, but I wish the focus was on a few less characters.

5. Fresh Horses (1988)

This movie was WEIRD. I had never heard of it before and decided to watch it one day when I was sick because it was under the "Brat Pack" category on Hulu at the time. Let me tell you, it was a wild ride. Molly Ringwald and Andrew McCarthy are the two main characters. Ringwald's character is rumored to be 16 years old and married when she meets McCarthy's character, who is a college student. They fall in love, but they are not able to be together, and the movie ends in a kind of unsatisfactory way. I need to watch it again just to experience it one more time to see how I really feel about it.

Feb. 26 4:23 p.m. Everyone should enroll in Newspaper (Media Design and Production) for next year. I love it here, and I bet you would, too (wink, wink).

Americans need to understand DEI provides *equal* opportunities

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies have faced backlash from many politicians and their followers recently.

Opponents of DEI claim that these policies favor people who are not the best candidates for college admissions, college scholarships, potential jobs and more because of their status as a minority group. However, the fact is that DEI programs just provide people *equal* opportunities.

DEI policies do not give unqualified people advantages; instead, DEI programs protect people from discrimination based on age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, pregnancy, race, religion, sexual orientation and more. For instance, these programs provide handicapped accessibility in bathrooms, translated documents for students and families who speak different languages and many more daily practices that allow *all* people to be included at schools and at workplaces.

During Donald Trump's presidential campaign, he commonly portrayed DEI as programs that stole jobs from the majority to give them to minority groups, but this was and still is a major misunderstanding.

For example, imagine that a person who is a part of an underrepresented group, such as a woman, applied for the same job as someone in the majority, such as a man. DEI policies just ensure that the woman would get an equal employment opportunity based on her skills and that the employer could not discriminate against hiring her because she was a woman. It does not mean an unqualified woman stole a more qualified man's job.

In January, Trump signed executive orders aimed at terminating DEI. One order, "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity," said private organizations that have federal contracts are prohibited from using DEI practices.

Another order, "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing," will "terminate, to the maximum extent allowed by law, all DEI, DEIA and 'environmental justice' offices and positions; all 'equity action plans,'

'equity' actions, initiatives or programs, 'equity-related' grants or contracts; and all DEI or DEIA performance requirements for employees, contractors or grantees."

While U.S. District Judge Adam Abelson has issued a preliminary injunction that blocked portions of these executive orders, the Trump administration is fighting back, meaning a long battle is ahead in the court system.

Still, in response, many major U.S. companies have scaled back or even dissolved DEI policies. Corporations, such as Amazon, Google, McDonalds and Walmart, for instance, have either reduced or removed

DEI goals for hiring and DEI references in documents, and have stopped programs supporting underrepresented groups.

With DEI being removed at some major companies and within public schools, colleges and universities, this creates a more uneven field for groups that have already had to fight hard for their rights.



By Alijah Arias
27aarias@usd489.com

SUPPORT

FANATIC FANS

Student section provides support and increases enthusiasm at games

By Brayden Staley
27bstaleyherman@usd489.com

As most athletes and coaches will say, the student section is an important asset to any competition, as the student body boosts morale and shows support for the teams. Led by senior Wyatt Kirkpatrick and senior Cooper Lindenmeyer this year, the Hays High School student section has been an integral part of each game, especially during basketball season.

Kirkpatrick and Lindenmeyer work alongside Spirit Club, which develops the themes for the home games.

"We have a meeting in August, and anyone can throw out ideas they have," senior Maycie Holdeman said. "The [Spirit Club] class reps narrow it down to 10, and then we send out a Microsoft Form to the club members to rank the 10 we chose."

Once themes are decided, at the actual games, Kirkpatrick and Lindenmeyer take over the leadership of the student section.

"My role is to get as many people to the games and to keep the student section under control," Kirkpatrick said. "I think a student section that stands out is one that is always being loud and one that has a lot of students there that participate."

At games, the student section performs different chants and cheers, depending on the events taking place in games. While many chants originate from college basketball games, there are unique parts of the Hays High student section.

"A couple of my favorites were, when we played TMP [Thomas More Prep] and 'Jesus' came to the game and controlled the crowd," boys basketball coach Sean Dreiling said. "Also, the ESPN post-game interviews were fun."

While participants in the student section want to have fun, they also must abide by the Kansas State High School Activities Association's Rule 52, which contains six points about being courteous, respecting the decisions of the officials, winning with character and losing with dignity, displaying appreciation, exercising self-control and being positive.

With Rule 52 in mind, Kirkpatrick said student section leaders try to maintain sportsmanship at the games.

"We just try to keep everyone under control," Kirkpatrick said. "You can have fun without saying anything disrespectful."



Photo by Maycie Holdeman

WHITE OUT

On Feb. 28, the student section cheers during the girls basketball game against Great Bend. "One of my favorite themes was the 'Minions' theme because I dressed up as Vector," senior Wyatt Kirkpatrick said.

According to Kirkpatrick, the student section allows the teenagers who are not playing to get involved in the game and with the team, along with having fun and making memories, but their involvement also motivates the teams.

"I think the players feed off the energy from the student section," Dreiling said. "We have a lot of athletes that know the game in the student section, so it's fun when they know what to cheer for. Even from being a little kid, wanting to be a Hays High Indian and represent our community, school and team is a big deal. Kids want to be a part of that partly because of the environment our student section provides."

As students move to the new school next year, there are bound to be changes to the student section in the larger gym. While Kirkpatrick said a better arrangement for seating should be considered by the leaders for next year, Dreiling said he hopes that students continue to support all the Indian teams.

"The key word is 'presence,'" Dreiling said. "We want the students present. We want them to be loud but also appropriate, so that they can stay at the game and be welcomed at future games."



**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

ATHLETE
SPOTLIGHT

Boys Basketball



junior Dawson Ruder

In his second year as a varsity starter, junior Dawson Ruder has been a leader for boys basketball. After being recognized as a Western Athletic Conference First Team selection and an All-State 5A Honorable Mention last year, Ruder has led Hays in multiple statistical categories this season.

How has this season gone?

"The season has went well. We have had a tough schedule, so our record doesn't show quite how dangerous we are, but I'm excited to make a playoff run."

What has helped you the most in your basketball career?

"Ever since I started playing in third grade, I've been blessed with amazing coaches that help me excel and get better."

How do you feel after having a solid regular season?

"We are as confident as we have been all season. It's been a season of highs and lows, but I think we are getting hot at the perfect time and are read to make a playoff run."

Reporting by Hank Corsair

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Staff, students prepare for March Madness, with popular tournament approaching soon

By Hank Corsair
25hccorsair@usd489.com

March has arrived, and that means spring is approaching. While many people will be spending their free time enjoying the weather and doing outdoor activities, most college sports fans will be spending their time indoors and watching the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's basketball tournament, better known as March Madness.

For the men's tournament, the "First Four" games will be played on Tuesday, March 18 and Wednesday, March 19, and the tournament field games will begin on Thursday, March 20. March Madness will continue through late March and into early April, with the Final Four being played on Saturday, April 5 and with the National Championship being two days later on Monday, April 7.

During March Madness, many sports fans spend their time creating their brackets, having watch parties and, of course, watching the games and cheering on favorite teams, local teams or, sometimes, underdog teams.

"During March Madness, my friends and I always go

to Wilson Lake and watch the games that first weekend at my buddy's cabin," Audio/Video Communications teacher Jake Dechant said. "We usually have a barbecue with burgers and brats. We spend that weekend watching basketball, as well as fishing if it's nice outside. It is a great time to get out of Hays and spend some time with friends."

The numbers show just how big the men's basketball tournament is, as the NCAA reports that people complete between 60 million to 100 million brackets each year, as they strive to get the first-ever perfect bracket, despite the odds being one in 9.2 quintillion.

The NCAA men's basketball tournament, which started in 1939, also now averages around 10 million viewers during the tournament, which jumps up to 15 million for the Final Four and the National Championship; that puts the whole tournament in the Top 15 of the Most Watched Sporting Events in the world.

At Hays High School, in addition to teachers like Dechant, many students take a great interest in March Madness.

"I fill out a bracket and watch as many games as I can," junior Ani McClure said. "I love the chaos of upsets and watching the games with my family."

Many students also fill out brackets with their friends and compete to see who can get the most accurate one.

"I fill out a bracket, and I enjoy seeing all of the upsets" senior Carter Lang said.

And, best of all, students and teachers will get to enjoy the first week of

basketball games over Spring Break.

So, get ready for another exciting month of college basketball with Cinderella runs, crazy endings and all 68 teams who get in trying to complete the goal that they set at the beginning of the season: winning the National Championship in San Antonio, Texas.

"I fill out a bracket and watch as many games as I can. I love the chaos of upsets and watching the games with my family."
junior Ani McClure

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



LEISURE



Hobby Time

Due to digital world and increased responsibilities, more people have less time for real hobbies

By Clare Tholstrup
25ctholstrup@usd489.com

In today's world, so many different hobbies seem to be available, but in some ways, they also seem to be explored less and less. With so much to do and so little time to do everything, hobbies can be difficult to start and continue. In addition, constant access to the digital world has led to a decrease in hobbies.

"I definitely think that cell phones and the ease of entertainment has led to the loss of some of the interest in hobbies," art teacher Grace Splichal said. "However, there has also been a reoccurrence of 'grandma hobbies' — things like knitting, coloring and reading."

In 1994, the Craft and Hobby Association designated March as National Craft Month to encourage people to pick up new creative activities and celebrate people who already have hobbies involving crafting.

Crafting dates all the way back to the Stone Age, when people would craft practical items like pottery. Over time, crafts developed to include more intricate details and more on the side of necessity and more on the side of artistry. Since the 20th century, crafts have been handmade pieces that people create in their free time, ranging from painting, pottery, scrapbooking, woodworking and more. In addition to crafting, other hobbies can range from playing an instrument to playing a sport.

With teenagers having so many other responsibilities to complete, finding the time and having the patience to work on hobbies can be difficult. Nevertheless, students find

comfort in their hobbies.

One particular hobby is scrapbooking. Scrapbooking is arranging pages of memorabilia, such as photos, letters, drawings and more into a book to create an aesthetic way to keep memories.

"I first wanted to scrapbook when I saw my mom's old scrapbook, and it inspired me," sophomore Alexis Ryan said. "I do it so that I can keep my memories and look at them forever."

Other students have found woodworking to be a fulfilling hobby, as they can create decorations, furniture or other items out of wood.

"I think it's fulfilling to be able to create things with my own hands instead of relying on ordering from manufacturers," senior Cooper L. Johnson said. "Seeing your visions come to life is very satisfying."

If students do not know where to start, there are many clubs at Hays High School that offer designated times and spaces to work on hobbies. For example, the Knitting Club meets every other Monday after school to provide students with a space to work on knitting projects and learn how to knit.

"Knitting is a very relaxing and calming hobby that also allows us to give back to the community through donations made from the projects of the members," junior Mitzil Carrillo, a member of the Knitting Club, said.

Although the modern world has many aspects that always keep people busy, there are places to find peace. Hobbies can provide a relieving escape from the rushed parts of life. This March, in honor of National Craft Month, pick up a new hobby or start crafting.



Crocheted items by senior Addy Brull; artwork by senior Reagan Bates; scrapbook pages by sophomore Alexis Ryan; neon sign by senior Cooper L. Johnson



Anticipated Albums

James Arthur - "Pisces"

Japanese Breakfast - "For Melancholy Brunettes"

Jason Isbell - "Foxes in the Snow"

Jennie - "Ruby"

Lady Gaga - "Mayhem"

Lucy Dacus - "Forever Is A Feeling"

Mumford & Sons - "Rushmere"

Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco - "I Said I Love You First"



Future Films

March 7

"In the Lost Lands"
"Night of the Zoocalypse"
"Queen of the Ring"
"Seven Veils"

March 14

"Black Bag"
"Novocaine"
"Opus"

March 21

"Ash"
Disney's "Snow White"
"The Alto Knights"

March 28

"A Working Man"
"The Woman in the Yard"



Witty Wisecracks

What do you call a March parade?
A "march-ing" band!

What is the difference between February and March?
March has a little "spring" in its step!

Why should you never start a conversation with Pi?
It will go on forever!

What happens when a basketball team loses in a March Madness tournament?
There's an open-basket funeral!

Why is it easy to prank someone born on March 31?
They were born yesterday!