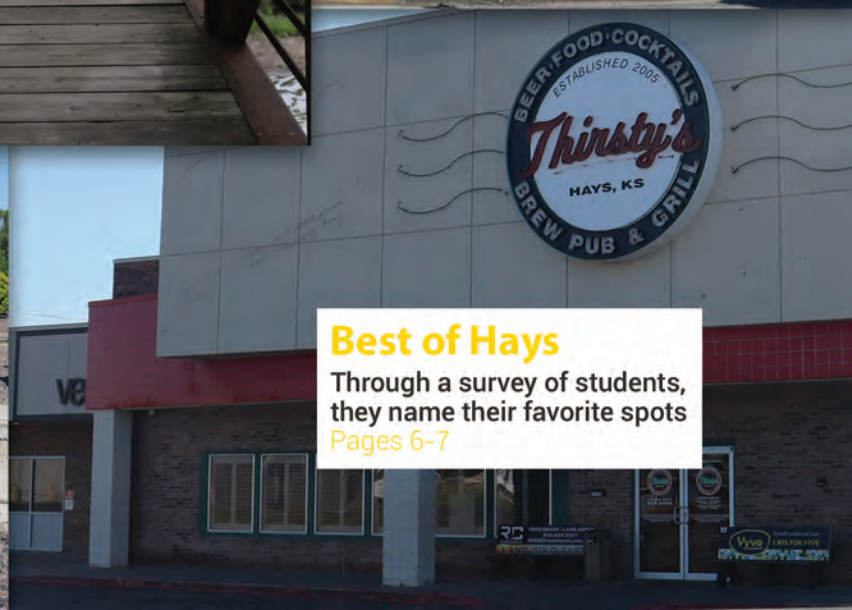


Vol. 99
Issue 7

The Guidon

May
2025

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



Best of Hays

Through a survey of students,
they name their favorite spots
Pages 6-7

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ON THE COVER



Cover photos and cover illustration by Eleanor Bittel

ORGANIZATIONS

Art Club members showcase work at Art Day, participate in spring downtown Hays Art Walk

By Cason Grezeszak
25cgrezeszak@usd489.com

Throughout this school year, Art Club has had meetings both during PRIDE Time and after school. Recently, though, the club participated in the Fort Hays State University Art Day and in the Downtown Art Walk.

On April 16, club members attended FHSU's annual Art Day, with this year being the 50th anniversary of the event and breaking its record with 72 schools in attendance, which showcased their work. For Hays High School, more than 100 art pieces were entered.

"We bring students from the Art Club and their artworks, both those that have been created during the school year and outside of school," club sponsor Grace Splichal said.

Added this year, judges awarded first, second and third place awards to pieces at each school's booth to highlight exceptional artworks.

For Hays High, senior Keira Vilaysing earned first, freshman Aubrey Morris was second and junior Jazmine Johnson was third.

"I was proud of my works, and I wanted to be able to share them with others," Johnson said. "I learned that I should 'look deeper' into what I'm creating to be able to show all the true aspects of the final piece of art."



Photo by Khandi Guzman (Indian Call)

SPRING ACTIVITIES

On March 6, Art Club sponsor Grace Splichal plans upcoming events with club members. In April, Art Club participated in Art Day at Fort Hays State University and in the spring Downtown Art Walk.

The FHSU Department of Art and Design also offered interactive activities for attendees, including ceramic throwing tutorials, mood board creation and stop motion activities, and students were encouraged to participate in the sidewalk chalk competition, with this year's theme being "Mascots in Oz."

Along with Art Day, students wanting to showcase their works that were either made in school or outside of school were encouraged to display their art at the Downtown Art Walk for this spring, which was on April 26. Around 25 Hays High students shared their work during this event.

Many downtown Hays businesses allowed people to display their work; however, Studio 809 held all the work for Art Club. During the Art Walk, community members were invited to browse the pieces being displayed at businesses.

Some students have participated in the seasonal events all four years of high school, entering pieces every year, as well as adding new works to their portfolio.

"There were not as many visitors as last year but still a fair amount," senior Samara DeWitt said. "I like [showing work at the Art Walks] to see if others enjoy my pieces because I put in a lot of time and effort. My handled mug got a lot of recognition and praise."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) attended the state leadership conference in Wichita on April 7-8, where sophomore Avery Arias qualified for the national contest in Orlando, Fla., on July 5-9 by presenting a Public Policy Advocate project about student dating violence.

How did you prepare for state?

"I created a portfolio that consists of many things, such as my research, project planning and proof/results of my project. In addition to this, I had to write a 10-minute speech following my portfolio and highlighting facts about my project."

Why did you choose your topic?

"I chose the topic of student dating violence because I've witnessed firsthand how it affects

sophomore
Avery Arias

students. It's an issue that many people find difficult to talk about, so I wanted to let students know they're not alone."

How did you feel about qualifying for nationals?

"I was incredibly excited because I dedicated a lot of time and effort to my project. I am grateful for the support of the people in the community, my family and my advisors. What made it even more meaningful was the chance to represent Hays High since this is our very first year participating in FCCLA."

What will you do to prepare for nationals?

"I'm going to review my rubric from state and fix some of the things I got points off for. I'm also going to polish up my speech and practice a lot."

Reporting by Kennedy Fischer

CONSTRUCTION



Photos by Kale Schwien

NEARING COMPLETION

Staff members prepare for pending move to newly built high school

By Kale Schwien
25kschwien@usd489.com

With the new Hays High School set to open in August, crews are finishing construction while staff members are preparing for moving and starting the 2025-2026 school year.

To prepare for the big move, principal Shawn Henderson said that faculty and staff members are responsible for packing their belongings to have them ready to be moved later. While some furniture from the current school will be moved to the new school, other furniture will be left for the middle school teachers to use or for other district buildings to take. As part of their checkout process, teachers must have everything that does need to be moved packed and stored in the designated staging areas by May 23.

"We have begun the process of packing up materials," science teacher Jennifer Olt said. "I have packed up a lot of supplies in my room that I am not going to use anymore and my personal items. We have also begun packing up the back science storeroom."

Once areas of the new building are ready, Henderson said district maintenance staff members will move the items to the new school. One group of maintenance workers will move items from the current building to the new building, and one group will receive items at the new building and move them to the appropriate rooms.

"It's never easy to move, and I think every teacher and department has challenges," Olt said. "For us in the Science Department, we have a lot of lab equipment we need to move, and a lot of it is glassware that is fragile, and items, like skeletons and

models, that don't fit easily in a box. We also have to think carefully about moving all of our chemicals from one building to another."

In addition to the building itself, new parking lots are also being constructed. For teachers, there will be a parking lot in front of the new building on the north side. For students, there will be one parking lot at the new school on the east side of the new building. And, half of the parking lot at the current school will be designated for high school students with a walkway leading to the new building. A median will separate the current high school lot into an area for high school and an area for middle school.

"I think the new parking will be worse than now because the middle school and the high school are both going to be funneling into the same roads," junior Henry Glendenning said.

To accommodate the traffic, 13th Street between Canterbury Drive and Commerce Parkway has been under construction for much of this school year. Crews from the City of Hays are widening the road to allow traffic to flow better, with both the high school and the middle school being on 13th Street when the middle school moves to the current high school building for January 2026.

"They are also hoping to make it so that the turn going into the parking lot from 13th Street is right turn only during peak school hours," Henderson said.

While there is no set date for the new school building to be completed, Henderson said it will be ready for staff and students for the 2025-2026 school year.

"The start of the school year is Aug. 20, and we still plan to be in the new school by then," Henderson said

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Bus: (785) 628-2151
bruder@amfam.com

SUMMER

Students make their summer plans by scheduling jobs, other activities

By Kennedy Fischer
26kfischer@usd489.com

As the summer approaches, many students begin to solidify their summer plans, including work, volunteer or learning opportunities, to fill up their free time.

Starting with jobs, students have various reasons for working, ranging from saving for college, saving for trips, having spending money or learning new skills. In Hays, common workplaces for teenagers are in retail or food service.

Sophomore Olivia Brening started at Dillons grocery store last fall since she wanted to go out of her comfort zone. Although Brening left Dillons recently to start a babysitting job, as she enjoys working with children more, she said working at Dillons was helpful.

"My experience was not too bad, considering it was one of my first jobs," Brening said. "I loved the customers there and made amazing friendships with my coworkers."

While some jobs can be held throughout the year, others are seasonal. Sophomore Alexis Ryan works at the Kaw Valley garden center, which is a pop-up store in the Big Creek Crossing parking lot.

"I decided to work there because I was interested in flowers and the job sounded fun, along with me wanting a job for the summer," Ryan said.

Besides working, some students are making summer plans for helping others or improving themselves.

In Hays, students can volunteer for various organizations. Junior Savannah Clingan applied to the Youth Action Council board to be involved with local government and said she has learned a lot about the process for writing grants and funding projects in the community.

"This year, we made a lot of progress in our ongoing project to place bison statues around Ellis County," Clingan said. "I have gone with other members in town to pitch our plans and ask for donations. It has been fun to be a businesswoman."

Beyond Hays, this summer, junior Delia Dixon will be going to Washington, D.C., for the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit. To attend, she had to be nominated by the Hays Sister Cities board and then apply online. At the summit, students will learn about using diplomacy, tour the city and have a diplomatic simulation on the final day.

"I am looking forward to meeting new people from across the country who also share my interests in international relations," Dixon said.

If students do not already have summer plans, it is not too late, as the Hays High School counselors are often aware of various businesses or organizations looking for students to work or to volunteer.

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CULTURE

Travel Club prepares for upcoming Mediterranean trip

By Alijah Arias
27aarias@usd489.com

As school nears its end and students make summer plans, the International Travel Club has actually been preparing throughout the year for its summer trip to the Mediterranean Coast.

The International Travel Club, sponsored by special education teacher Jennifer Klaus and health secretary Julie Pfannenstiel, includes not only Hays High School students, but also community members, who have a passion for traveling the world.

For the Mediterranean trip, the group of travelers, which includes the two sponsors plus 10 students and nine others, will leave on Tuesday, May 27 and will return on Wednesday, June 4. During the nine-day trip abroad, the travelers will experience the countries of Italy, France and Spain.

"We will discover how Cinque Terre has retained its original charm, learn how the French Riviera became the place to be for generations of rich and famous and see how Antoni Gaudí's surreal architecture has turned the city of Barcelona into one big gallery," Klaus said.

Departing from Wichita on May 27, the group will fly to Milan, Italy, on Day 1. On the second day, they will travel from Milan to Cinque Terre, which is a village on the Italian coast, where they will also spend the third day exploring the area.

After touring those parts of Italy, on Day 4, the group will travel from Cinque Terre to the French Riviera and tour Monaco, where they will visit the Prince of Monaco's Palace, the Monaco

Cathedral and a French perfume factory. On the fifth day, they will remain in the French Riviera, taking a walking tour of Nice, France, and having time to explore the region.

On Day 6, the group will travel from the French Riviera to Barcelona, Spain, which they will tour until they return home on Day 9.

"I am most excited to go to Barcelona because we did not go to Spain last year, and I want to see how it is different from the previous countries I have been to," said junior Brooklyn Barber, who traveled to other European countries with the group in Summer 2024.

The International Travel Club has been to Europe previously, as they work with Educational Tours, whose programs "help students expand their knowledge of the world around them, discover more about themselves, grow more confident and independent and understand new people, places and cultures," according to their website. According to Pfannenstiel, the group's trips benefit those attending, especially the participating high school students.

"I love seeing the travelers experience a new culture," Pfannenstiel said. "They come back, realizing how good we have it here in America. It gives them life experiences that they may never get to experience otherwise. Airplanes, trains, subways, metro stations – it helps prepare them for other possible trips, as many get

the travel bug. We have some students that end up going on two or three trips with us."

For this summer's tour, the original price of the trip was \$4,869 total, although International Travel Club members are offsetting that cost with fundraising. Fundraising activities have included running concession stands at school activities and hosting BINGO games on Wednesday nights for students and their family members to volunteer. They have also sold baked goods, barbeque, pizzas and suckers, wrapped holiday gifts, babysat children so parents can shop during the holiday season and sold seasonal greenery. Educational Tours also offers merit-based scholarships of \$1,000 to students who apply and who are selected for the scholarships.

"We have had some [club members] work fundraisers and had quite a bit of the trip paid for," Pfannenstiel said. "There is also a link that can be sent out once a student signs up to send donations; this has been beneficial to many who use it."

While members have been preparing for this trip, the sponsors are also looking forward to the next trip in Summer of 2026, when they will go to Greece and Turkey for 10 days from May 28, 2026, to June 6, 2026. Students or others who are interested can get involved in this trip by contacting Klaus at jklaus@usd489.com or Pfannenstiel at jpffannenstiel@usd489.com for more information.

To learn more
about the
Summer 2026
Greece trip,
scan here!



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HAYS THE BEST OF

Students select their favorite local options among Hays businesses

The shock about the sudden closing of the Hays AMC movie theater in April sparked pessimism among students. What will be the next place to close? What is left for us to do in this town? What is there to do this summer? From a survey of 81 students, these places represent the best of Hays – shops, restaurants and events that shape our town. Despite popular belief, Hays can provide opportunities for activities that do not include just driving around town or going to Sonic. Maintaining beloved local spots in Hays requires support from residents. So, this summer, branch out from your habitual routine and explore the Best of Hays, according to students.

FAVORITE EVENT IN HAYS

1) WILD WEST FESTIVAL

2) DOWNTOWN ART WALKS

3) BEACH-SCHMIDT PERFORMANCES

FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP

1) ARC THRIFT

2) OTHER

3) GLIK'S

FAVORITE PLACE TO GO IN HAYS

1) PRECISION VALLEY

2) CENTENNIAL LANES

3) STERNBERG MUSEUM

BEST PLACE FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES

1) SUMMER CARNIVAL

2) HAYS AQUATIC PARK/POOLS

3) FRONTIER PARK

BEST OVERALL RESTAURANT

1) THIRSTY'S

2) CANCUN

3) SAKE2ME

FAVORITE NEWER RESTAURANT

1) ITALIAN CAFE

2) LAS HEFAS

3) MELANIE'S KITCHEN

FAVORITE FOOD TRUCK

1) TACOS EL PATRON

2) THE LOCAL FOOD TRUCK

3) PFONZ SMOKEHAUS

MOST UNDERRATED RESTAURANT

1) OSAKI

2) VERNIE'S HAMBURGER HOUSE

3) LAS HEFAS

FAVORITE PIZZA PLACE

1) LOMATO'S PIZZA

2) DEFIANCE BREWERY

3) OLD CHICAGO


FAVORITE SWEET TREAT VENDOR


1) SNOW CONE EXPRESS


2) SUCK IT UP BUBBLE CUP


3) MIJOM'S ICE CREAM XPRESS


Guidon Staff Favorites


 **sophomore Alijah Arias**
El Dos Restaurant


 **senior Reagan Bates**
Breathe Coffee House


 **senior Eleanor Bittel**
Frontier Park


 **senior Hank Corsair**
Cervs Convenience Stores


 **junior Delia Dixon**
Breathe Coffee House


 **junior Kennedy Fischer**
Vernie's Hamburger House


 **senior Cason Grezeszak**
Frontier Park


 **senior Kale Schwien**
Jalisco Mexican Restaurant

 **sophomore Brayden Staley**
Thirsty's

 **senior Clare Tholstrup**
Professor's Classic Sandwich Shop

 **senior Katelyn Willemsen**
Beach-Schmidt Auditorium

 **senior Tavia Wynn-Coffman**
Vernie's Hamburger House

 **adviser Jessica Augustine**
Hays High School

Praises

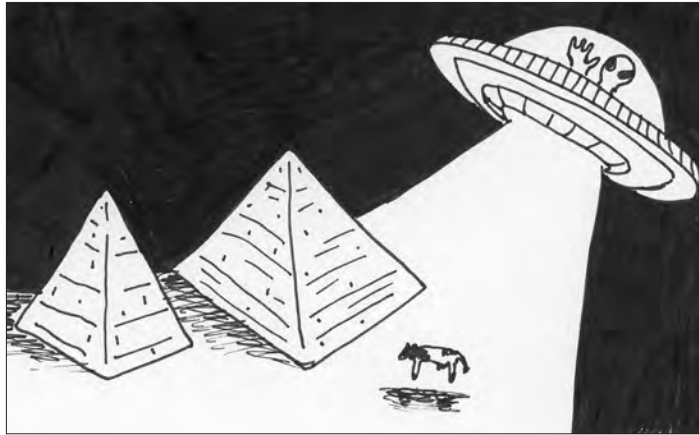
- Joe Cool Snoopy
- Katelyn's birthday
- Summer menu items
- Conspiracy theories
- Italian brain rot
- Free shipping
- Warranties
- Lorde
- PBS & NPR
- Pope Leo XIV

Protests

- Finals
- Sunburns
- Defunding PBS & NPR
- FHSU class registration
- Toccata and Fugue
- Spam texts and calls
- Alcatraz reopening
- Understaffed airport towers
- Buying and filling your own gas
- New schedule for next school year

Staff Playlist

- Alijah Arias**
"400 Lux"
by Lorde
- Reagan Bates**
"Forever Young"
by Alphaville
- Eleanor Bittel**
"Party 4 U"
by Charli XCX
- Hank Corsair**
"Boys Back Home"
by Dylan Marlowe, Dylan Scott
- Delia Dixon**
"What Was That"
by Lorde
- Kennedi Fischer**
"Royals"
by Lorde
- Cason Grezeszak**
"Flipper"
by Pasteboard
- Kale Schvien**
"Blame"
by Calvin Harris
- Brayden Staley**
"Shut Up and Dance"
by WALK THE MOON
- Clare Tholstrup**
"Leaving On a Jet Plane/Good-bye Again"
by John Denver
- Katelyn Willemsen**
"Let Me Be Wrong"
by Jensen McRae
- Tavia Wynn-Coffman**
"Closing Time"
by Semisonic
- Jessica Augustine**
"Hands of Time"
by Eric Church



Cartoon by Eleanor Bittel

Public must think critically to combat misinformation

You open social media, and you see a post about how there may be some Illuminati behavior in the depths of the Denver International Airport, how the gargoyles guarding the baggage claims are actually hidden cameras, how the blue bronco statue outside of the airport is a spawn of Satan or how the tunnels underneath the airport lead to the headquarters of the Illuminati. What do you choose to believe?

While misinformation has always been spread, with the internet and social media, it seems like people in the United States and worldwide have become more gullible, choosing to believe whatever they see and continuing to share misinformation. To combat this spread of misinformation, we need to improve our society's digital literacy, which is the ability to effectively and safely use digital technologies to find, evaluate and communicate information.

The first step of digital literacy is finding accurate information. With the sheer amount of information available online – both accurate and inaccurate – it is very easy to choose the first source that we see, which makes it possible to consume unreliable content. Instead of believing the first source that they read, people should search the web thoroughly, looking for credible news outlets and official websites.

After finding what appears to be reliable content, the second step is to evaluate the sources. This is when people must use critical thinking by asking questions, analyzing arguments, recognizing bias and fact checking one source with other credible sources. Rather than just accepting the information, people should be open to questioning the source and to finding other sources to corroborate or to disprove the information.

Finally, the last step to digital literacy is communicating information so that others are informed accurately. To share the information, people must know their audience first and change their language appropriately. For example, if they are sharing information with their friends, they will need a different vocabulary than if they were talking to their principal. Next, they need to be clear and concise with the information. Last, they should be respectful by acknowledging others' concerns and questions and being patient.

In our modern world, where there is an immense amount of constant information, it is relatively easy to believe the first thing that you see, like conspiracy theories. However, instead of accepting all the information we see, strengthening our digital literacy can hinder the spread of misinformation.

Opinion of the Guidon Staff

Agree: 13
Disagree: 0

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Tavia Wynn-Coffman
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Clare Tholstrup
- Copy Editor**
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- Design Editor**
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- 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 designates superlatives to Guidon members for last column

May 6 12:27 p.m. Since this is my final column, I wanted to give the newspaper staff their superlatives. These are just my opinions (and mostly jokes) so please take them with a grain of salt.

Alijah Arias: Most Likely to Go Bankrupt

This kid spent an ungodly amount of money on our convention trip to Seattle, and I wish I possessed the unbothered energy Alijah has.

Eleanor Bittel: Most Likely to Go Off the Grid

I feel as if Eleanor would disappear for a year and then reappear randomly with stories from around the world.

Hank Corsair: Most Likely to Be on ESPN

This one is self-explanatory. With all that he has done in high school, I feel that Hank will have a successful career in sports broadcasting.

Delia Dixon: Most Likely to Move to a Foreign Country

This girl always seems to be gone on breathtaking vacations, and honestly,

I am jealous. I think she will eventually move to one of the places she has been.

Kennedi Fischer: Most Likely to Be a Crazy Cat Lady

I mean this one in the best way possible. I love that Kennedy is constantly talking about her cats, and I hope she continues to do so.

Cason Grezeszak: Most Likely to Invest in Stocks

Cason seems like the kind of person to invest his money in stocks. I am not saying he would be good at it... just that he would.

Kale Schwien: Most Likely to Buy a Massage Chair

Only some people know this lore, but Kale (and some other fellas) once kept us waiting after a conference because they were using the free massage chairs.

Brayden Staley: Most Likely to Be an Olympic Runner

Brayden is passionate about running, and it seems that he devotes a lot of his time to it, so that is my sole reasoning.

Clare Tholstrup: Most Likely to Start a Cult



By Reagan Bates
25rbates@usd489.com

I have known Clare for years, but she still is one of the most mysterious individuals I know, and I think she could convince people to be in a cult she begins.

Katelyn Willemsen: Most Likely to Have Jacked Calves

This girl has not had a car in months, and I think that, especially when she goes to college, she is going to have the most muscular legs due to walking everywhere.

Tavia Wynn-Coffman: Most Likely to Be a Victim of Identity Theft

Miss Tavia has already had her information stolen, and I feel like she is so quick to believe people. I love her, but I feel like scammers definitely will get her.

Ms. Jessica Augustine: Most Likely to Commit Tax Fraud

This is based on a dream I had once, in which Aug committed tax fraud, and I felt very betrayed. (I do not believe this woman would commit such crimes!)

And, finally, me: Most Likely to Be a Fugitive of the Law

Clare and Tavia chose this one, saying I will move from town to town, being a menace. I am unsure how to feel about this. Check on my life in a few years...

Staff member provides suggestions for refreshing summer treats

Summer is nearly here, and many students, including myself, cannot wait for the last bell to ring to be free from school. With spring and summer, comes new and fresh menu items from restaurants – in particular, refreshing drinks and cold treats. I found these worth the time to try.

1) Starbucks

For beverages, a good start is always Starbucks. From the spring menu, my favorite drink is the Lavender Cream Oat Milk Matcha, but if you are not a fan of lavender, another popular offering is the Iced Cherry Chai. And, while the summer menu only began May 12, it contains an Iced Horchata Oat Milk Shaken Espresso and two Summer Berry Refreshers.

2) Scooter's

Scooters is also running its spring menu, including the Cinnamon Brown Sugar Oat Milk Latte, Caramelicious Creme Cold Brew, Peach Bliss Quencher, Strawberry Blossom Matcha and Lucky Charms Latte. Of those, I tried the Lucky Charms Latte, which is very sweet but is still popular. Scooter's also has started serving items from its summer menu,

which includes six new Red Bull Infusions and S'mores drinks. The S'mores Latte has obvious flavors of chocolate, graham cracker and marshmallow, although it is a bit too chocolatey for me.

3) Dairy Queen

Another place for cold treats is Dairy Queen, which has released its summer menu. On it are two new Blizzards, the Dipped Strawberry Cheesecake Blizzard and the Mixing Bowl Mashup Blizzard. Since I am not the biggest chocolate fan, a friend tried the Mixing Bowl Mashup Blizzard and liked it. Also returning to the menu are the Confetti Cake Blizzard, the Cotton Candy Blizzard and the S'mores Blizzard. I tried the Cotton Candy Blizzard, and the ice cream was good, but it had crunchy sprinkles, which I did not expect, so I did not love it, but if you like some crunch in your Blizzards, you may enjoy it. I also tried the S'mores Blizzard, which was surprisingly good; the kicker

was the marshmallow chocolate bars, which gave it a beautiful flavor I yearn for even now.

4) Cold Stone Creamery

At Cold Stone, which is my place of employment, we just added Mangonada ice cream, which is a mango base with Tajin added for spice. There is a Signature Creation, called the Mangonada Sunrise, which has more Tajin, mango popping pearls and fresh pineapple. Because I am not big on sweet and spicy flavor combinations, I am not a huge fan, but some of my coworkers really enjoy it.

If these options do not tickle your fancy, you can stick to Sonic's Flavorista Favorites. Or, you can get a McDonald's Minecraft Happy Meal, which is not a summer item or a cold treat, but the toys are really cute! I hope this list has helped you figure out where to spend the really large sum of money you have from your minimum wage job! Treat yourself this summer!



By Katelyn Willemsen
25kwillemsen@
usd489.com

COLLEGE

LETTERS OF INTENT

Fifteen Indian seniors commit to play college athletics next year

By Brayden Staley
27bstaleyherman@usd489.com

In the United States, according to the educational organization Cognia, about 3.9 million seniors graduate from high school each year. Around 61.3 percent go to college, and of those students, only 6 percent will be athletes at the collegiate level.

From Hays High School, 15 seniors have signed a Letter of Intent to compete at the next level, with 14 signing to compete in Kansas and one signing with a Missouri school.

"We have had more students on average per year signing Letters of Intent than when I first started at Hays High," activities director Lance Krannawitter said.

In previous school years, each student arranged his or her own signing date with Krannawitter, but this year, Krannawitter scheduled four specific signing dates during PRIDE Times on Nov. 13, Dec. 18, Feb. 19 and April 16.

"It was hard for coaches to show up at the signings," Krannawitter said. "Another reason we changed is because other conference schools also do four specific dates, and I felt like it needed a change."

Alysa Brown - Allen County College for soccer: "It felt like family when I visited. Practicing with the team, I felt like I belonged – the girls played just like me. I am excited to leave Hays, experience real college soccer and join a group that is passionate about the game."

Johnny Cano - Bethany College for football: "It's close to home, and family is important to me. I'm excited to build friendships and grow both as a player and a person."

Tagge Cass - Sterling College for football: "It's close to home and offers the academics I wanted. I'm most excited to continue my athletic career, play football with my brother again and pursue a business education degree."

Riley Dreher-Hutchinson Community College for softball: "I chose Hutch to experience a new place, gain more freedom and learn more about the world and myself while meeting new people."

Cy Drobeck-Hutchinson Community College for cheer: "I chose Hutchinson because it's close to home and offers the support I need in academics and athletics. I'm excited to grow my skills and embrace new opportunities."

Wyatt Kirkpatrick - Fort Hays State University for football: "It has a strong football program and is close to home. I'm most excited to make new friends and be part of a team."

Katie Linenberger - Fort Hays State University for track: "FHSU is close to home, has great facilities and offers the medical diagnostic imaging program I want. I'm excited to meet new teammates and compete at the college level."

Kaelin Maier - Tabor College for tennis: "It felt like the best fit after exploring many options. The supportive environment, along with being close to home, made my decision easy."

Molly Martin - Ottawa University for basketball: "It felt like home, and everyone was so welcoming. I'm most excited to meet new people, keep playing the sport I love and continue growing."

Dalton Meyers - Fort Hays State University for track: "It's a great school and close to home. I'm most excited to meet new people and train to excel in javelin."

Jaycee Oakley - Fort Hays State University for golf: "It's always been my goal to be a Tiger, and staying close

to family made it even better. After earning a scholarship, the choice was clear. I'm excited to take on new opportunities."

Preston Parr - Bethany College for soccer: "I liked the campus and facilities, but knowing the coach made the decision easy. I'm most excited to compete while working toward my degree."

Izabel Schmidt - Saint Louis University for swim: "It matched my values and had everything I was looking for. I loved the team atmosphere, the coaches and the strong pre-med program. I'm excited to continue my journey, meet new people and explore a new community."

Dani Willeford - Kansas City Community College for soccer: "I chose KCCC because of the welcoming environment and the convenient location. I'm most excited to play soccer beyond high school and take the next steps in my adult life."

Alyse Zimmerman - Pratt Community College for tennis: "I chose this program because the coach invited me to meet the team and showcase my talent, and after discussing the benefits of playing there, I knew it was the right fit."



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

✉ email: cservice@NorthwesternPrinters.com

🌐 web: NorthwesternPrinters.com

ATHLETE
SPOTLIGHT

Girls Swimming



senior Izabel Schmidt

After six school records, six conference championships, three All-Conference and All-State selections and multiple podium finishes at state, senior Izabel Schmidt is still looking for a strong finish this season before swimming at the Division I level with the Saint Louis University Billikens.

What has helped you with your success in swimming?
“I have great friends and family who support me and teammates and coaches to push me.”

What are your goals for this final swim season?
“One of my goals is to win an event at state and place with my relays, but I would be happy to improve my placings and times from last year. I also would like to get a sweep at WAC and win Swimmer of the Year.”

What did it feel like to sign with a Division I school?
“Along with signing to a Division I team, committing to a prestigious academic school made me feel accomplished.”

Reporting by Hank Corsair

LOCAL

Coming off championship, Hays Larks set to open summer baseball season

By Hank Corsair
25hccorsair@usd489.com

Summer is quickly approaching, which means one of the city's best pastimes is also approaching – that being Hays Larks baseball.

The Larks are coming off of their best season in program history, which included a 22-6 record in the regular season and the franchise's third Rocky Mountain Baseball League championship since joining the league in 2020.

All of this concluded with a 3-0 pool record at the National Baseball Congress (NBC) World Series and two wins in bracket play before getting a come-from-behind victory, 7-3, against the defending champion Hutchinson Monarchs to win their first NBC World Series title.

“I am really excited to see what the team will do because a lot of the same guys are coming back from their championship-winning team last year,” senior Carter Graham said.

From last season's success, the Larks had a pair of pitchers and a pair of infielders named to the NBC All-American team. Those pitchers were Garrett Hicks

and Nolan Wilson, while the infielders were Will Carpenter and Garrett Gruell. Manager Frank Leo was also named Manager of the Year.

The Larks will return 13 players from last year and add 11 newcomers. Many statistical leaders will return, including Kaleb Duncan, who led the team in runs with 30, and Thomas Lyssy, who was the batting average leader.

On the pitcher's mound, the Larks will return Hicks and Wilson, who combined for 26 strikeouts and an ERA of 1.56 in the NBC World Series. The two also played a role in helping the Larks outscore their regular season opponents, 226-110, and get more strikeouts than hits allowed.

Overall, the Larks will return eight pitchers from last year's team, as well as seven position players, two of which play multiple positions. Those include Trent Baker, who switches between pitching and playing outfield, and

Dylan LaRue, who plays as catcher and infielder. And, Leo will return as the Larks' manager – a role that he took over in 1980, which makes this season his 46th season with the Larks.

Senior Reagan Wamser, who volunteers for the team, said that the Hays Larks “always brings in such a great crowd and creates an awesome atmosphere for the community.

“[The Hays Larks] always bring in such a great crowd and creates an awesome atmosphere for the community.”
senior Reagan Wamser

Every year, new players come in and bring something different to the field, and it's so cool to see how fast they become a family.”

The Larks will start their 79th season on June 4 with a road game against the Dodge City A's and then another road game the next day against the Newton Rebels. The first home game will be June 7 against Dodge City at Larks Park. It is the first of 25 home games this season, so be sure to visit Larks Park this summer to watch the defending NBC World Series Champion Hays Larks.

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785-628-5373 fhsu.edu/informatics

TigerMediaNet.com

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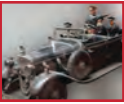
SOCIETY

IT'S A CONSPIRACY

To explain occurrences, conspiracists promote various theories

CONSPIRACY THEORIES ARE IDEAS THAT PEOPLE DEVELOP TO EXPLAIN EVENTS THAT ARE NOT LIKELY EXPLANATIONS. TYPICALLY, THESE FANTASTICAL THEORIES ARE ROOTED IN QUESTIONABLE BELIEFS AND CAN BE HARMFUL BY CAUSING DISTRUST AND DIVISION. ALTHOUGH THEY CAN BE INTERESTING, AND SOMETIMES SILLY, TO LEARN ABOUT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE CAUTION, AS SOME THEORIES CAN BE DISGUISED AS BEING FACTUAL.

1945



HITLER ESCAPED TO ARGENTINA. After Nazi Adolph Hitler's 1945 death, conspiracies spread that Hitler had escaped to Argentina. While some Nazis escaped to Argentina after the war to escape punishment, the evidence of having part of Hitler's jaw and teeth proved he died.

EARTH IS FLAT. The Flat Earth Society has existed since the 1950s, believing that the earth is a flat, stationary disc, not a moving ball. The notorious group of Flat Earthers has continued to grow and is fueled even more by access to the internet, where they spread this conspiracy theory.



1950

1966



PAUL IS DEAD. Some Beatles fans say Paul McCartney died in a car crash in 1966 and the band replaced him with a lookalike named Billy Shears. These fans believe that the band then began leaving clues and messages in their music that made nods to McCartney's death.

THE MOON LANDING WAS STAGED. In the mid-1970s, the theory that the 1969 moon landing was faked began to gain traction. The idea was that the moment was staged and filmed here on Earth so that the United States could get ahead of the Soviets in the space race.



1969

1975



ILLUMINATI CONTROL EVERYTHING. The conspiracy about Illuminati pulls from "The Illuminatus!" trilogy from 1975 and holds the belief that certain elites are part of a secret society that work to pull strings in important events, with their headquarters being the Denver airport.

AREA 51 EXISTS. In 1989, a man named Bob Lazar claimed to have worked at Area 51 in Nevada on extraterrestrial technology that came from UFO crashes. This fueled the belief that Area 51 has alien spacecrafts and some alien bodies that the U.S. government is hiding.



1989

1997



PRINCESS DIANA WAS MURDERED. Since the car accident in 1997 that caused the deaths of Princess Diana and her boyfriend, conspiracy theorists have said that the British Royal Family planned the high-speed accident in Paris to kill them to keep them from getting married.

WORLD LEADERS ARE REPTILES. In 1998, conspiracist author David Icke wrote a book explaining his theory that the world leaders are actually alien lizards wearing "people suits" who are working together to develop a worldwide fascist state.



1998

1999



WE LIVE IN MATRIX. The idea that we all live in a simulation is based on the 1999 movie "The Matrix." Some people believe that the world is run by a giant computer and that humans have a fake reality. That poses the question: are we real, or are we just part of the simulation?

BIRDS ARE NOT REAL. Initially starting as satire, this movement was meant to show how ridiculous conspiracies are. In 2017, a psychology student started the conspiracy that birds were replaced with drones to see if people would believe anything they were told, and some people did.



2017



Anticipated Albums

Miley Cyrus – "Something Beautiful"

Damiano David – "Funny Little Fears"

Jin – "Echo"

Maren Morris – "Dreamsicle"

Blake Shelton – "For Recreational Use Only"

Morgan Wallen – "I'm the Problem"



Future Films

May 2

"Thunderbolts"

May 9

"Clown in a Cornfield"

"Fight or Flight"

"Juliet & Romeo"

"Shadow Force"

May 16

"Final Destination: Bloodlines"

"Hurry Up Tomorrow"

May 23

"Lilo & Stitch" [Live Action]

"Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning"

May 30

"Bring Her Back"

"Karate Kid: Legends"



Witty Wisecracks

When is a pool safe for diving?
It depends!

What happens when ice cream gets angry?
It has a meltdown!

Why is the ocean so clean?
It has mer-maids!

Did you hear about the killer whale that learned to play the flute?
He wanted to be in the orca-stra!

Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants to the course?
In case he got a hole in one!

Why did the watch go on vacation?
To unwind!