

Vol. 99  
Issue 2

# The Guidon

November  
2024

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



Canvas Student  
Assignment Graded: Edouzzie | Gravity and  
Orbits - Shepherd-Adams Astronomy F24  
Students  
Yesterday, 12:29 PM

PowerSchool  
Your H, JR-Digital Media Design &  
Production A 3(O) S1 grade is now F.  
now

PowerSchool  
Your H F Audio Video Production A  
1(M) S1 grade is now F.  
now

Canvas Student  
Assignment Graded: EdP Relativity & GPS,  
Shepherd-Adams Astronomy F24 Students  
Yesterday, 12:27 PM

Doug  
Bro are you going out tonight? We're  
waiting on you  
now

Canvas Student  
Assignment Graded: Edouzzie | Galileo,  
Shepherd-Adams Astronomy F24 Students  
Yesterday, 12:27 PM

**OPTIMIST OR PESSIMIST?**  
Studies show that perspective  
affects overall motivation  
Pages 6-7

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ON THE COVER



Cover photo illustration by Eleanor Bittel; cover digital illustration by Eleanor Bittel & Coy Stutterheim

ORGANIZATIONS

# Teacher creates Economics Club to advance education of students interested in business

By Brayden Staley-Herman  
27bstaleyherman@usd489.com

There are a lot of clubs at Hays High School, but one of the newest ones, the Economics Club, has been publicizing itself recently to encourage students to join.

"I helped create the Economics Club to help expand my passion for learning about economics," junior Bryson Weber said, adding that he also wanted to teach other students about economics.

Club meetings are in sponsor Silas Hibbs's room on Thursday afternoons, as needed, from 3:15 to 4 p.m. During the meetings, they discuss economic topics, such as stock trading, financial responsibility, current events and other business topics.

"Some key activities involve making investments, setting up spreadsheets, learning about emerging markets and developing trading skills," Weber said. "Mr. Hibbs, the sponsor, is a great connection." Hibbs said the club "studies all factors that drive various foreign and domestic markets," including consumer behavior, government policies, technology developments, supply and demand and more.

With a goal of allowing students to have real-life business experiences in a school setting, club members use the knowledge they gain to develop their own business projects.

"Students are challenged with bringing a product or an idea to a market that they understand and then managing and owning their business idea and all aspects that go with it," Hibbs said.

Some aspects that Hibbs encourages the club members to consider include consumer feedback, customer service, inventory levels, legal regulations and others.

"Students study the market factors, then utilize critical thinking, problem solving and inference to come up with a market POV [point of view]," Hibbs said.

One of the current projects is the management of a school snack shack, which sells drinks and snacks to students. However, the club is also considering other business projects, including an evaluation of spending habits in Hays and more.

"Right now, we are currently working on the Econ [Club] game room, where students could rent gaming devices for their personal use," Weber said.

Some student projects tie into Hibbs's classes, including Business Economics,

Emerging Technologies and Entrepreneurship.

"All Econ Club projects are very short-term and very opportunistic in nature," Hibbs said. "There are many future projects that are in the works and once they are released, there will be no question of the value that they bring."



Photo by Caira Augustine (Indian Call)

CALCULATING FIGURES

During a meeting on Nov. 14, sophomore Isaiah Burkholder views junior Bryson Weber's calculations. Economics Club started this year with the goals of teaching students about economics and allowing them to have real-life business experiences.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This year, orchestra director Brayden Smith created a Symphony Orchestra, which performed for the first time on Oct. 29. The symphony has two top string ensembles, consisting of the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra, plus any band members who are willing to volunteer.

What inspired you to create this group?

"My inspiration was to give our students a chance to experience what it is like to be a real-world musician. Professional instrumental musicians almost always end up performing in a symphony; it's just what we do. Music performed by symphony orchestras plays a big part in music history and contemporary music, and I wanted to share a small taste of that with the capable musicians we have here at Hays High."



teacher  
Brayden Smith

How did you decide what music you should have the symphony play?

"I pick the music for the Symphony Orchestra based on the theme of the concert, the capability of the musicians and whether it is interesting. I try to program music that both the performers and the audience want to hear."

Were you happy with the result of the first concert?

"I was very happy with the result of the 'Go West' concert. The musicians played fantastically, and the energy from the performance was exhilarating. I am proud of all of the performers who put their time and energy into the performance. I look forward to our next several performances, and I am so excited to see the group continue to grow."

Reporting by Kennedy Fischer



## EDUCATION

# Recent changes to ACT make test easier for students not seeking certain degrees

By Katelyn Willemsen  
27kwillemsen@usd489.com

As students prepare to take the ACT this winter, they should be informed about the changes before they take the test in preparation for their college journey.

For many years, students have had to take four sections of the ACT, including English, math, reading and science, with an optional writing test at the end.

However, American College Testing (ACT) has made the science section optional in the future. Students who do not plan to pursue a science-related degree are no longer required to take this portion of the ACT exam. According to ACT, this gives students, “more choice and more flexibility, allowing students to tailor their experience to fit their needs, giving them more control over their testing experience.”

However, counselor Alyssa Chappell said that, while this might appeal to students, it may not be the best decision to forego taking the science test.

“I do wonder how this might affect college admissions and readiness for STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Math] careers,” Chappell said. “STEM is an ever-growing area of study, with science being a main component. Not testing on this component doesn’t make a lot of sense to me. I would think that colleges admitting students into STEM majors would feel similarly, in that they may not have a strong idea of a student’s content knowledge other than their science grades on their transcripts.”

The ACT <sup>®</sup> Upcoming 2024-2025 Testing Deadlines			
Test Date	Registration	Late Registration	Photo Upload
Dec. 14, 2024	Nov. 8, 2024	Nov. 22, 2024	Dec. 6, 2024
Feb. 8, 2025	Jan. 3, 2025	Jan. 20, 2025	Jan. 31, 2025
April 5, 2025	Feb. 28, 2025	March 16, 2025	March 28, 2025
June 14, 2025	May 9, 2025	May 26, 2025	June 6, 2025
July 12, 2025	June 6, 2025	June 20, 2025	July 4, 2025

Eliminating the science section will shorten the test from 215 questions in four sections to 171 questions in three sections. Testing time also will be shortened by about a third, leaving 22 percent more time per question.

The new test layout will include a Core English section with 35 minutes for 50 questions, which is 10 minutes shorter and 25 fewer questions; a Core Math section with 50 minutes for 45 questions, which is 10 minutes shorter with 15 fewer questions; and a Core Reading section with 40 minutes for 36 questions, which is five minutes longer with four fewer questions. If students choose to take the science test, it will be 40 minutes to answer 40 questions, which is the same.

“This may encourage more students to re-take the ACT since it wouldn’t be quite so long,” Chappell said. “Other students may feel the gained time back from one less test section is negligible.”

This change will not happen in time for current high school seniors to opt out of the science section, as the new test will only be available in April of 2025. Current juniors are expected to have the option to take either the old or the new format.

“Students who have already taken advanced math classes may feel ready for the test that will use the current format,” the KD College Prep website said. “Students who wait to take Algebra II in 11th grade would likely benefit most from taking the new version of the test.”

Current sophomores and freshmen will only need to prepare for the new format of the test.

“I wish I would have had the option to not take the science portion because that was the hardest part for me,” senior Caira Augustine said. “I also think this will be good for students because it can be hard to focus for long periods of time, so a shortened test would be nice.”

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## OBITUARY

## Junior remembered by staff and students after death in car accident

By Kennedy Fischer  
26kfischer@usd489.com

Early on Saturday, Oct. 5, 16-year-old junior Zane Page died as the result of a fatal car crash southwest of Hays.

Page, who was born on Nov. 4, 2007, in Hays, was the son of Heather Page and David Hilton Jr., was a brother to 11 siblings and was an uncle to three children.

Growing up in Hays, he attended Wilson Elementary School, Hays Middle School and Hays High School before continuing his education at Hays Virtual School this year.

Alex Underwood, Page's PRIDE Time teacher, said Page was "goofy" and "kind" and that, in their last interaction, Page talked about how he was ahead in his classes.

"He seemed so happy with how his life was going, and I left feeling really good about how optimistic he seemed," Underwood said. "My heart sunk when I heard the news."



junior Zane Page

One of Page's friends, junior Javen Gibson, recalled Page as a "charismatic guy." He said that his favorite times with Page were driving around and listening to music.

"Without Zane, I wouldn't be the person I am today," Gibson said, adding that he also met many new friends through "the people he brought along with him."

Another of Page's friends, junior Dylan Coveney, described Page by saying that he always "lived in the moment" and was one of the funniest and the nicest people that Coveney knew.

When recalling his memories with Page, Coveney said that one favorite memory was during freshman year, when they would hang out every day to play video games, such as "Fortnite" and "Roblox." Page also enjoyed being outdoors, fishing, making jokes and wrestling.

But, Coveney said that their friendship extended beyond just having fun together.

"He really impacted my life by getting me through sticky situations and always being there for me," Coveney said. "Zane was my best friend and always will be."

## FALL PLAY



Photo by Alijah Arias

### RADIUM GIRLS

During a performance of "Radium Girls," Grace Fryer (senior Jordan Aschenbrenner) mourns the death of Katherine Schaub (senior Addy Brull), who died from radium poisoning.



Photo by Alijah Arias

### SERIOUS EFFECTS

US Radium vice president (senior Katelyn Willemsen) talks to company president (senior Oscar Flores) about their expanded use of radium near the beginning of Act I.



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# Are you more optimistic or pessimistic? Studies show mindset links to motivation, health, coping

## CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

## CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

**Most people are optimistic in varying degrees, as opposed to people who are truly pessimists. Take this quiz to see where you land on the scale.**

**1. You go on a hike in the mountains, and the views are stunning. However, on the trail, you fall into the mud. What is your reaction?**

- A. I am never hiking again. I ruined my shoes and almost broke my leg.
- B. I couldn't even appreciate the views because I was covered in mud.
- C. My hike would have been better if I had not fallen down.
- D. I loved that hike. Next time, I will bring a friend and shoes that aren't as slippery.
- E. Hiking is always an adventure, and that's why I love it.

**2. Your friend cancels plans with you. What is your reaction?**

- A. They must have canceled on me because they're sick of me. What if they're mad at me about something?
- B. I wish we could still hang out. I had so many things I wanted to do with them.
- C. I was looking forward to hanging out this afternoon, but I'll have to find other things to do.
- D. Oh, well. We can try and hang out another time.
- E. We can reschedule. Now I can use this extra time to catch up on homework.

**3. Your alarm doesn't go off, and you're late to school. What is your reaction?**

- A. This is a terrible start to my day. I bet everything is going to go wrong.
- B. I never sleep in. What is going on with me today?
- C. This is not a great way to start the morning, but it won't ruin my whole day.
- D. I must have needed that extra sleep. Now I'll be more rested today.
- E. I'm proud of myself for going to school and being flexible.

**4. You give a speech in class that you spent three weeks preparing. You get a good grade, but your teacher takes off a few points and leaves a comment saying, "You need to work on slowing down your speech and reducing distracting movements." What is your reaction?**

- A. My teacher must hate me. Why did they take off points for "distracting movement?"
- B. I should have practiced more. Maybe then I wouldn't have missed those points.
- C. My speech could have been better.
- D. Even though I lost points, I'm still proud of how I did.
- E. I'm glad my teacher left me a note so I can improve next time.

**5. You remember how much you loved doing a certain sport when you were little. What are your thoughts?**

- A. I wish I had never quit that sport. I could have spent all this time improving my skills, but now it's too late.
- B. I don't want to be embarrassed by not being as skilled as everyone else.
- C. If I rejoin now, I'll be so far behind everyone else.
- D. If I started again, I may not be as good as everyone else, but I would still enjoy it.
- E. I should try to get back into that sport because I remember how much I liked it.

By Delia Dixon  
26ddixon@usd489.com

On Nov. 3, Daylight Saving Time ended. The hours of sunlight diminish quickly with the approaching winter. Before the start of December, the sun will set at 5:15 p.m. in Hays. The temperatures start dropping, as the colorful leaves of autumn wither away to browns and grays.

Many people tend to find their mood and their motivation also dropping during this time of the year. The internet is full of tips and tricks to ward off feelings of indifference, such as "Start a new hobby!" "Set more goals!" "Wake up early!" "Exercise!" However, these "simple changes" require motivation also. For exhausted students and staff, it can be challenging to muster up the motivation needed to complete the tasks meant to boost motivation.

How can one approach this dilemma? To find motivation during the winter, focus on your thinking. Is your outlook more positive, negative or somewhere in between? According to Mayo Clinic, positivity has been linked to higher levels of motivation and improvements in one's mental and physical health.

According to an article about mindsets in the November 2010 issue of the Clinical Psychology Review, optimism and pessimism are broader terms to describe the "confidence and doubt pertaining to life."

"If people doubt they can reach a goal, they may withdraw effort toward it," the article states. "They may stop prematurely, or the action may never really start. People who are confident about eventually reaching an outcome will persevere even in the face of great adversity."

Therefore, by being optimistic about the results one may achieve, one will become more willing to work toward that intended outcome, leading to heightened motivation.

"I feel I am more of a pessimist," senior Julia Kuhl said. "I tend to look more at the negatives more than the positives because, if it is within the world, it is not flawless. [My more pessimistic way of thinking can] sometimes [impact my productivity] because I'm critical of my own work, and this hinders my efficiency in the long run, which in turn affects my mood. For me, motivation is parallel with my mood. If I'm in a bad mood, I will have next to no motivation for anything."

The self-confidence that correlates with optimism also affects the coping mechanisms that optimists use as compared to what pessimists use, which can impact stress levels and mental and physical health.

A study published in the August 2006 journal Personality and Social Psychology Review analyzed the different coping styles that more optimistic and more pessimistic people adopted. People who were more optimistic were also more likely to use engagement coping when presented with both controllable stressors (e.g. academic demands) and uncontrollable stressors (e.g. trauma). This coping style involves addressing the stressful situation and finding a solution. Because optimists are confident that they will find success, the study found that they persevere through challenges.

On the other hand, people who were more pessimistic, or doubtful, were more likely to use disengagement coping when faced with stressful situations. This involves efforts to avoid or deny the problem and escape emotions stemming from it. Unfortunately, this often has the opposite effect, resulting in further distress.

Coping styles can impact stress levels because optimistic people usually aim to tackle their problems instead of letting those problems dictate their lives. While optimism cannot prevent all stress, it can help reduce it. Less stress can, in turn, lead to improved physical health.

Clinical Psychology Review also explained that evidence indicates pessimism can lead people into self-defeating patterns. The result can be less persistence, more avoidance coping and increased health damaging behaviors.

"The brain essentially makes your body and health react to what you tell it," Psychology teacher Matt Brooks said. "If you say it's going to be a bad day, then your brain will focus on those things that will make it a bad day, and you miss the myriad of things that could have made it a good day."

By adopting an optimistic, positive and confident thinking style, research shows that one will find more motivation and less stress.

"We can benefit from positivity, but it's the negative things we tell ourselves that prevent us from being happy and reaching our potential," Brooks said.

**6. You lose while playing board games with your family. What is your reaction?**

- A. I only play to win. There isn't any point if I can't win.
- B. Board games are less fun when you aren't winning.
- C. I wanted to win, but it isn't realistic to win every time.
- D. I didn't win, but at least I had fun.
- E. It's not about who wins or loses, but the fun we had.

**7. You are working on a group project and your views/ideas conflict with your group. What is your reaction?**

- A. My idea is the only idea that will work. We aren't going to get a good grade if we don't use my idea.
- B. My idea would work much better, and my partners are so difficult to work with. I wish I had a different group.
- C. I think that my idea will be more successful, but if my partners are unwilling to try it, I know there are other ideas.
- D. I can work to convince my partners to try my ideas, but if they are reluctant, we can try new ideas.
- E. We can compromise and form new ideas that share the benefits of both sides.

**8. During a math lesson, you keep getting the wrong answer. What is your reaction?**

- A. I must be stupid. What I wrong with me?
- B. I can't do this math. I think I'll just give up.
- C. This math is harder for me than usual. My homework is going to take longer than it normally does.
- D. I am not always going to understand everything. I may just need more assistance with these problems.
- E. I can ask the teacher to explain it again, and then I will keep trying. I know that I can do this.

**9. While discussing current politics in history class, other people in your group say they support the opposite political candidate that you do. What is your reaction?**

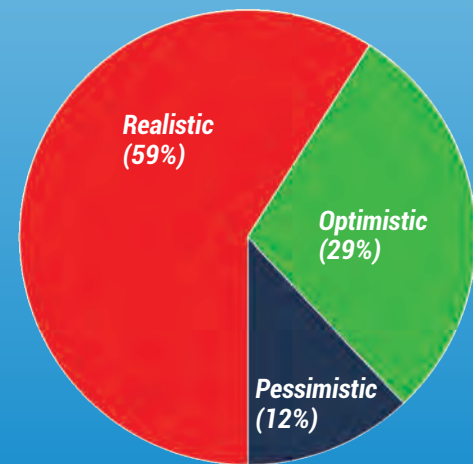
- A. By supporting the other candidate, this person is either stupid or wants the worst for this country.
- B. I can't believe they support the opposite candidate. I can't ever look at them the same now that I know.
- C. Some people's opinions are ill-informed, and I don't feel the obligation to respect such opinions.
- D. Sharing opinions that are different can expose the other person to new ideas. This can be valuable in forming a stronger personal perspective.
- E. Different opinions should be valued and respected. It is important to understand both sides of an argument.

**10. Your family has decided to move to a new house. It is very different from your current house. What is your reaction?**

- A. I don't want to move to this new house. It's way too different from my current house for me to ever like it.
- B. I love my house and my room. Moving means leaving all of the great things about this house.
- C. There will be things I like and things I don't like. It's okay.
- D. I will miss my room, but I am excited to design a new room.
- E. This new house will present me with new things to love. Just because it is different doesn't mean it is bad.

**Look at the options you selected. Each 'A' is 2 points; each 'B' is 4 points; each 'C' is 6 points; each 'D' is 8 points; and each 'E' is 10 points. The more points you have, the more positive you are!**

## OUR PERSPECTIVE IS...



Students were asked the following question: "Which of the following best describes your normal mindset?"

Here are their results!

Information from a poll of 141 students

## TIPS TO BE POSITIVE

Even if you are more negative, understand that positivity can be learned. Here are some tips from The New York Times for how to become more optimistic.

**ONE** Visualize your best self. Imagining your future can boost your optimism.

**TWO** Accept the inevitability of disappointment. Know that negative things do happen, but do not fear that. Accept it and grow from it.

**THREE** Argue with your pessimistic self. Recognize your negative "voice," and argue with it as if it were a person to present evidence on why it is wrong.

**FOUR** Put things into perspective. Counteract your extreme negative predictions with extreme positive predictions to find the realistic situation.



### Praises

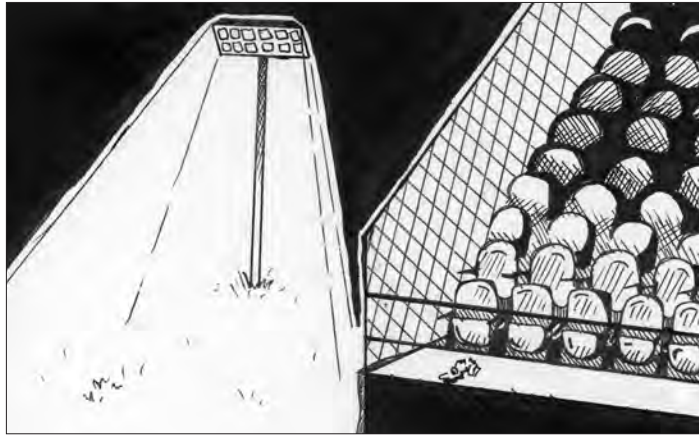
- Fast responses
- Cafeteria fudge bars
- Mashed potatoes and gravy
- Sonic Flavorista favorites
- Environmental Club recycling bins
- Coolmath Games
- Sticky notes
- The Rizzler

### Protests

- Giving blood
- HHS parking lot
- Fingernails breaking
- Defrosting your car
- Slow internet
- Heavy winds
- Temu jeans
- Ozempic

### Staff Playlist

- Alijah Arias**  
"Gypsy"  
by Fleetwood Mac
- Reagan Bates**  
"Tainted Love"  
by Soft Cell
- Eleanor Bittel**  
"Yawning at the Seance"  
by Ezra Bell
- Hank Corsair**  
"A Bar Song (Tipsy)"  
by Shaboozey
- Delia Dixon**  
"Ex-factor"  
by Miss Lauren Hill
- Kennedi Fischer**  
"Found Heaven"  
by Conan Gray
- Justin Houchen**  
"Thunder Bringer"  
from "Epic the Musical"
- Kale Schwein**  
"Blame"  
by Calvin Harris
- Brayden Staley-Herman**  
"We Built This City"  
by Starship
- Coy Stutterheim**  
"Red Solo Cup"  
by Toby Keith
- Clare Tholstrup**  
"Has Anyone Ever Written  
Anything For You"  
by Stevie Nicks
- Katelyn Willemsen**  
"Maneater"  
by Nelly Furtado
- Tavia Wynn-Coffman**  
"Don't You Want Me"  
by The Human League
- Jessica Augustine**  
"Numb/Encore"  
by Linkin Park & Jay-Z



Cartoon by Eleanor Bittel

## Supporting *all* athletic teams strengthens Hays High School

On Friday nights in the fall, Lewis Field Stadium comes alive, as students cheer on the football team. For the first two quarters, the stands echo with spirit. But, at halftime, a noticeable trend emerges: the once lively crowd slowly diminishes, as students head out of the football stadium. Left behind are a disappointed football team, cheerleading squad and band members, along with empty stands.

We know that attending student activities, including athletic competitions, is not at the top of everyone's to-do list, but it is important to support one another.

This is not just an issue for football, either. For years, students have shown enthusiasm for football and boys basketball especially, yet this same level of support has not always extended to others. Teams, such as volleyball, softball, baseball and girls basketball, have long played to emptier bleachers. For these teams' athletes, the lack of crowds leaves them with the thought that their sport is somehow less valued and their work is somehow less appreciated by their peers.

According to an online anthropology site, *www.sapiens.org*, people attend male sports more than female sports simply because they think males are biologically "more built for athletics," thus producing "better" games. It is evident within our school, and even in college and professional sports, that some people follow this theory.

However, Spirit Club is trying to change this trend. They are implementing various themed events at games to encourage attendance across all sports, in hopes that students will stay to support the teams. It is a great initiative, one that shows our school community is taking the issue seriously and seeking ways to foster a culture of inclusivity and school spirit for all sports.

In addition, at some high schools, male teams make it a point to go to female teams' games, just as female athletes support them. For example, during the fall season, football teams make it a goal to attend volleyball games, or during the winter months, boys basketball teams shows up for girls basketball games.

But, the truth is, these efforts will only succeed if we choose to invest in supporting each other. When we show up, we are not just spectators – we are part of the game, giving our teams the encouragement they need to push through tough times. Whether it is a boys' sport or a girls' sport, our presence makes a difference. And, by extending our support to all the teams, we create a sense of pride that goes beyond individual teams; we strengthen the community of Hays High School.

### Opinion of the Guidon Staff

Agree: 13  
Disagree: 0

### The Guidon Staff

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The *Guidon* is a student-produced newsmagazine published to inform and entertain the Hays High community, to record the history of the school and to serve as an educational tool for journalism students. Under the supervision of a faculty adviser, journalism students have the opportunities to inform, investigate, entertain, interpret and evaluate in an open forum – all accepted functions of the traditional free press – and have the responsibilities to provide accurate, fair, objective and truthful coverage. Should unintentional errors in content be made, they will be retracted in the next issue of the school year.

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# RANDOM THOUGHTS WITH REAGAN

## Columnist returns with new journal entries and review of 'We Live in a Time'

**Oct. 16 4:12 p.m.** I hate fluoride with a passion. It is the only reason that I have ever dreaded going to the dentist. It fills me with inexplicable rage.

**Oct. 17 9:53 p.m.** I wish that, for one time in my life, I would be able to drive all the way down a one-way street going the wrong direction. I would choose either Ash Street or Fort Street down by the Fort Hays State University campus, but if I was given the opportunity to drive down any others, I would 100 percent take it.

**Oct. 21 10 p.m.** While I was driving home tonight, I saw a man walking his dogs on the sidewalk, but he was stopped and was looking at something in the street. I got scared, so I slowed down to see what he was looking at. It ended up being a cute cat. The man walked into the street with his dogs to get the cat out of traffic's way. He took it to the sidewalk and walked away. I just thought it was a very sweet interaction, and it made me happy to see him save the cat. ☺



By Reagan Bates  
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**Oct. 21 10:48 p.m.** I really love guacamole.

**Oct. 24 11:50 a.m.** I hate Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively with a burning passion!!!

**Oct. 26 12:15 a.m.** If you do not want any spoilers for the movie "We Live in Time," stop reading! However, I wanted to write a brief review of the movie because I am somewhat disappointed with what I have just witnessed.

Written by Nick Payne and directed by John Crowley, "We Live in Time" is described as a romantic comedy-drama that explores the lives of a recently divorced Tobias Durand, who is played by Andrew Garfield, and chef Almut Bruhl, who is played by Florence Pugh. The movie delves into all aspects of their relationship over 10 years, and the story is told in a non-linear order, switching between past and present points of view.

The main actors were beautifully cast, and I thought each of them did a great job

of portraying their characters, though I might be a bit biased because I love both Garfield and Pugh.

I knew, going into the film, it would be a bit depressing because of Almut's ongoing battle with cancer, but I honestly was a little confused by the end of the film. I felt like the movie had so much buildup to the ending, but when it finished, I felt like too much time was spent on the buildup itself. It did not leave the lasting impression that I hoped it would.

They make it clear that Almut dies, but not much is shown leading up to her death, which I felt would have made the movie more impactful. I was actually hoping to be hysterically bawling as I was walking out of the theater, but I did not shed a single tear. I also felt that the switching of time periods proved confusing also; although I was able to follow the timeline, I thought that this storytelling method took away from the better aspects of the film.

Overall, I did not, hate the movie, but I wish I would have liked it more.

**Nov. 1 12:25 a.m.** I just saw the pet bunnies again, omg.

## Staff member reviews his experience at Taylor Swift's Eras Tour

Taylor Swift's Eras Tour has been running for nearly two years now, with Swift performing about four hours of songs from each of her major musical eras, except the debut era.

I have been fortunate to attend two shows out of the 152 total performances, with the most recent being on Oct. 27 in New Orleans, La., at Caesars Superdome – specifically, New Orleans Night 3 (NOLA N3), the final show in the city.

About a month before, my three sisters and I began preparing, as we made traditional friendship bracelets to trade with other fans at the concert. Additionally, we created themed outfits. This time, I based my outfit on Swift's "Folklore" album, with a green shirt, the "Folklore" cardigan and brown jeans, and then I bedazzled green heart-shaped sunglasses that said "Folklore/Eras Tour."

On the day of the concert, my siblings and I arrived at the stadium around 2:30 p.m. and purchased our merchandise. The wait times were not too bad at all, and we were able to get merch right away, but the only downside was that the items

were a bit expensive, including \$65 for a crewneck, \$75 for a hoodie, etc. Because the stadium doors only opened at 4:30, we passed the time by talking to other Swifties and trading bracelets.

Once the stadium opened, we found our seats in Section 139 before getting concession stand snacks, which were relatively pricey. Around 6:45 p.m., the opening act, singer Gracie Abrams, started her 40-minute performance.

Then, the main event started, as Swift took the stage at 7:55 p.m., starting with her "Lover" Era, which included songs, such as "You Need to Calm Down," "Cruel Summer" and "Lover." I think the "Lover" Era was a good choice to start the concert because it is one of the more upbeat eras.

Swift then transitioned into her "Fearless" Era, followed by the "Red," "Speak Now," "Reputation," "Folklore"/"Evermore," "1989" and "The Tortured Poets Department" eras.

Then Swift performed the acoustic set, which changed every night of the tour. At NOLA N3, she played a mashup of "Afterglow" and "Dress" on guitar, then switched to piano for another mashup of "How You Get the Girl" and "Clean," both from "1989." The piano songs were notable this night, as it was the 10-year anniversary of "1989." With this being one of Swift's most popular albums, we were happy to get the songs we did.

After that, Swift entered her "Midnights" Era, which was the final era. In this, she performed "Lavender Haze," "Anti-Hero," "Midnight Rain," "Vigilante S\*\*t," "Bejeweled" and

"Mastermind" before ending with "Karma." The concert absolutely gets a 13/13 from me. I will always remember both shows that I went to and all of the records, releases and events that have emerged from this tour. Knowing that the final show is Dec. 8, the end is a bittersweet feeling for many Swifties.



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OUTDOORS

# Opening of hunting seasons gives students opportunities to bond with family and friends

By Kale Schwien  
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With various hunting seasons in full swing now in Kansas, hunters are taking advantage of opportunities to hunt various animals, including coyotes, deer, ducks, pheasants, quail and more.

The roots of hunting extend back for millions of years. More than 2.6 million years ago, in the Paleolithic period, early humans relied on scavenging for their food. They eventually became more skilled with the invention of better tools.

Before the European settlement of the Great Plains, Native American tribes relied heavily on bison hunting for clothing, food, shelter and tools. Hunting was often a communal activity, involving skilled use of handmade weapons like bows and arrows.

With European settlement, they brought the weapons that changed the way Native Americans practiced hunting, as traders, trappers, and military expeditions introduced firearms.

While some people still hunt animals for food sources, in recent times, hunting also has turned from survival to game. Many hunters in the United States hunt now for sport, making hunting a leisure activity that they share with family and friends.

"I've been hunting with my dad since I was 8," junior Carsen Moore said. "My favorite animal to hunt is dove, and my favorite conditions to hunt in are when it's not too hot or humid, and it isn't too bright."

Even though many people consider hunting as an acceptable practice or activity, others oppose the idea.

According to a survey from 2019 by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, more than 80 percent of Americans support legal hunting practices, with approval especially from more rural states in the Midwest, like Kansas. However, that approval depends on the reasons for hunting, as less than a third of Americans surveyed approved of big game trophy hunting for sport; instead,

they supported reasons, such as hunting for food sources, property protection or wildlife management.

"I feel like hunting is fine if you have a purpose for the animal you are hunting, like for the meat, but not if you are big game hunting just to hunt and kill the animals," junior Khandi Guzman said.

A study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 2021 points out various benefits to hunting, such as helping to manage wildlife populations, to eradicate invasive species, to prevent overgrazing and to maintain ecosystems. Hunting also benefits states by generating funding through licenses and taxes, and it helps communities by adding revenue from hunters visiting more rural communities.

To regulate hunting practices in Kansas, in 1987, the state established the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), which works towards managing wildlife populations and ensuring hunters follow regulations.

"I like hunting because I can get away from everyone and just be with friends and family, however, I know it isn't for everyone," senior Cole McDonough said.

**According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, more than 80 percent of Americans support hunting.**

## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Girls Golf

senior Jaycee Oakley

Playing varsity girls golf for all four years, senior Jaycee Oakley took ninth at the 5A state tournament this fall, and she was named the conference Player of the Year for the sport.

### Are you pleased with your performance at state?

"I think I was hitting the ball well, but my putts were just not falling. Overall, I would say I am happy with how I finished."

### Who has helped you the most with your success?

"My family and my coaches, but especially my dad! He got me into golf and has always been there to support me."

### What led you to sign with Fort Hays State University?

"I always wanted to go there because it was the closest option to home, but also because some of my old teammates are on the team."

### How do you feel about the legacy you leave behind?

"It's rewarding to think that my dedication might help some of the girls out in the future."

Reporting by Hank Corsair



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## BASKETBALL

# HAYS CITY SHOOTOUT

## Annual basketball tournament has long history, starting in 1982

By Hank Corsair  
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Being near the end of November, it means that basketball teams are getting ready for the season. And, as always, the season for Hays High School will begin with the annual Hays City Shootout, which is Dec. 5-7.

The three days are not just packed with action for the players, but also for the student body and the teams' fans, as multiple teams from across multiple classes make the trip to Hays to compete for a tournament win to start the season.

Most people credit former athletic director Mike Karl and former basketball coach Gerald Mitchell for starting the tournament, according to Eagle Radio broadcaster Dustin Armbruster, who has covered the event for many years. Karl and Mitchell had the goal of hosting a large home tournament to start the season with competitive teams involved, and so, the Gerald Mitchell Hays City Shootout began in 1982.

Today, 42 years later, the Hays City Shootout is still an event with huge impacts for the community.

"This tournament allows our basketball teams and fans to play and watch three home games versus quality opponents instead of traveling to an away tournament or scheduling three separate away games," athletic director Lance Krannawitter said.

In addition, Krannawitter said that, according to a study done by Grow Hays in 2018, the economic organization

found that "the city of Hays generates \$250,000 of additional income during the tournament period," as it brings in teams with their fans from all over Kansas.

"Many of the teams are multi-year participants; TMP [Thomas More Prep] and Manhattan have been coming for years," Krannawitter said, adding that the goal has been to include mostly 4A, 5A and 6A teams and that, if needed, he will send invitations to the surrounding states to achieve comparable high-level competitors.

While the home tournament is a positive event for the Hays community, it also is a good opportunity for the players for various reasons, including being a tip-off to the winter season.

"It is a really exciting time," senior Katie Linenberger said. "Getting the season started and playing great competition on our home court – it really sets the tone for how our season is going to go."

Hays High basketball teams normally play in one mid-season tournament in January also, but the players say the Hays City Shootout is more exciting than other tournaments.

"It's at home, and we have a lot of fans show out and support us," senior Jonathan Cano said.

And, with the high level of competition, the tournament provides a learning experience for Hays High's teams.

"It lets us know what our team is capable of," Linenberger said, while Cano added, "It shows us what we need to work on and improve on during the season."

The tournament is also an opportunity for players to get more attention because of the college scouts who attend to look at potential players for their teams.

This year will be the 42nd edition of the Hays City Shootout, and although the bracket has not been released just yet, games will be played at both Hays High School and Hays Middle School over the three days of the home tournament.

With both the Hays boys and girls basketball teams and competitors from around the state, it should be an exciting time, so make sure you catch some of the action.



Photo of Gerald Mitchell  
(Indian Call yearbook 1980)

action.

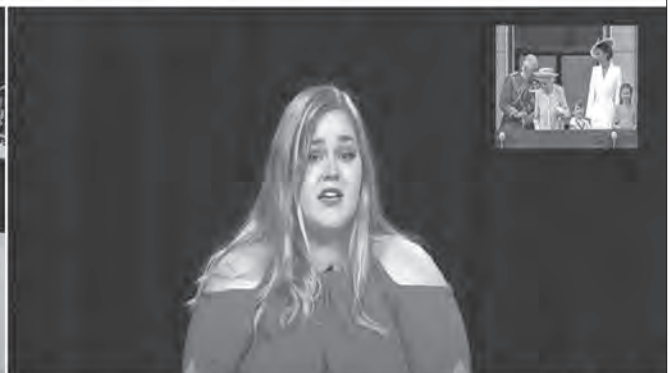
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## NOSTALGIA

# Coolmath Returns

## Students return to Coolmath Games website for sense of nostalgia and for entertainment

By Clare Tholstrup  
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A sense of nostalgia and the carefreeness of childhood are what brings people back to the wonderful place known as Coolmath Games.

The site, with hundreds of games, has attracted young students for decades. Many high school students, and even their teachers, remember playing those games in elementary school. Although associated with their youth, some return to the site for nostalgia and fun.

"I think my favorite Coolmath game is probably 'Papa's Pizzeria' because it is fun to make all kinds of different pizzas for all different people," senior Ava Ruiz said. "I still enjoy it as much as I did as a kid."

According to its About Us page, Coolmath Games was formed in 1997, but information on the creator is a bit foggier. Few sources give an actual answer to who the founder might be, and those that do provide little detail and questionable information. One source suggested two friends started the website while another said a math teacher created it to help students find math more enjoyable.

"Because we were all so obsessed with them, I remember our grade school teachers

turning them into math competitions where people could win prizes," English teacher Maileigha Albers said.

Recently, Coolmath Games has been implementing something called Flashback. Many games were previously supported by Adobe Flash Player, but by 2021, most browsers blocked Flash due to security issues. Because of this, many games could not be played, so the site worked to convert the beloved Flash games so they could be played again.

AwayFL is an open-source Flash emulator that Coolmath has been using to convert games from Flash to HTML. Making quick progress, Coolmath has already brought back many classic games, including all the "Papa's" games, "Fireboy and Watergirl" series, "Duck Life" series and more.

With the return of many classic games, students and staff alike have returned to Coolmath Games as an escape to a simpler time. Whether only occasionally or daily, many find a sense of nostalgia from visiting the site.

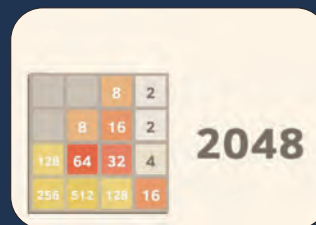
"The format and aesthetic of the site definitely makes feel like I am a rowdy elementary student again trying to waste class time playing games," orchestra teacher Brayden Smith said.



A longtime favorite game was first "Papa's" game, titled "Papa Louie: When Pizzas Attack!," which was released in 2006 and was followed with "Papa's Pizzeria." Overall, there are 17 main "Papa's" games, with each having a storyline of a character winding up running a restaurant because Papa Louie must rush off somewhere. Players control the functions of the restaurants by filling orders and moving up levels for endless play.



Another favorite series is the "Fireboy and Watergirl" series. The first of the games, "Fireboy and Watergirl in the Forest Temple," released in 2009. The series has six games with the most recent, "Fireboy and Watergirl: Fairy Tales," releasing in 2021. Each game in the series has the same basic concept of two characters that are controlled to work through rooms to reach doors. The games are platform adventure games that are best played with two people.



Released in 2014, "2048" instantly became a classic. The game is played by sliding tiles around a 4x4 grid. Each tile has a number on it that is divisible by two, and the player works to move the tiles to double into greater numbers. The goal is to combine tiles so much that you get a tile with the value 2048, hence the name. Although that is the goal, it does not end there, and players can, theoretically, continue playing the game forever.



## Anticipated Albums

Linkin Park - "From Zero"

Shawn Mendes - "Shawn"

Dolly Parton - "Dolly Parton & Family: Smoky Mountain DNA - Family, Faith & Fables"

Gwen Stefani - "Bouquet"

Dwight Yoakam - "Brighter Days"



## Future Films

Nov. 1  
"Absolution"  
"Here"  
"Juror #2"

Nov. 8  
"Elevation"  
"Heretic"  
"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"  
"Weekend in Taipei"

Nov. 15  
"Red One"

Nov. 22  
"Gladiator II"  
"Wicked"

Nov. 27  
"Moana 2"



## Witty Wisecracks

What do you call a running turkey?  
Fast food!

Why did the apple pie go to the dentist?  
It needed a filling!

What's a turkey's favorite horror movie?  
"Silence of the Yams!"

What's the opposite of November?  
Yes-vember

I'm devastated I won't be able to celebrate my birthday this March...  
Because I was born in November!

Why do birds fly south in November?  
Because it's faster than walking!

What did the turkey ask the farmer?  
Why his calendar ended in November!