

Vol. 100  
Issue 1

# The Guidon

October  
2025

Hays High School | 2500 E. 13th St. | Hays, Kan. 67601



**Brand-New Start**  
After bond passed in May 2022,  
new high school opens this year  
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## ON THE COVER



## ORGANIZATIONS

# New Ambassadors Program intends to create positive school environment for all students

By Allison Stecklein  
28astecklein@usd489.com

At the beginning of the new school year in August, the newly formed Hays High School Ambassadors Program started its work.

The Ambassadors Program, sponsored by social science teacher Luke Lundmark and science teacher John Neal, who also sponsor Student Council together, is a program in which students fill leadership roles and help other students with different tasks to improve the environment at school.

Lundmark and Neal developed the idea for the group last school year to take the place of the previously active Leadership Team, which was sponsored by counselor Troy Dale.

"The Ambassadors Program is a student leadership group that represents the school by welcoming new students, assisting with events and promoting school pride," senior Savannah Clingan, a Head Ambassador, said.

To become an ambassador, current juniors and seniors were nominated by their teachers, sponsors or coaches at the end of last spring. Then, they had to fill out an application to become an

ambassador. Out of all of the applicants, 80 students were selected. New ambassadors will be chosen again each spring for the next school year.

"For Ambassadors, I had to fill out an application, and since I was applying for Head Ambassador, I had an interview with Lundmark and Neal," Clingan said.

Once the group's members were set, the first task for the program was helping with the "sneak peak" events of the new high school building for each class on Aug. 18 and Aug. 19 before school started on Aug. 20. During the

events, ambassadors handed out schedules to students, helped students find their classes and assisted with managing the events. Some ambassadors also gave alumni tours after the Homecoming formal assembly on Sept. 26.

"I have given a few tours now, a couple to students and a couple to parents,"

junior Riley Flax said. "I can confidently say that there is something just so rewarding about being able to help people in such a way, especially in this new facility."

One of the Ambassadors Program's other initiatives is to start "lunch buddies," which would allow students, especially those new to Hays High, to have ambassadors

**"The Ambassadors Program is a student leadership group that represents the school by welcoming new students, assisting with events and promoting school pride."**

senior Head Ambassador Savannah Clingan

to sit with during their lunches to help them make new people, to get familiar with the school and to ask any questions.

Another initiative the program is introducing is the Kindness Initiative.

With this, students can spread kindness to others by nominating students or staff who are having a rough day, and the ambassadors will find a way to try to help.

"Our goals for the Ambassadors Program are to maintain a positive outlook and a positive school environment," Lundmark said.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

After 20 years of being Freshman Class sponsors, teachers Dustin Dreher and Jerett Pfannenstiel resigned. In their places, English teacher Maleigha Albers and special education teacher Pamela Baumfalk applied to be the new sponsors.

### What made you decide to be a sponsor?

**Albers:** "I am in my second year teaching here, and I want to continue to get more involved the more years that I am here. I became assistant debate/forensics coach this year, as well."

**Baumfalk:** "I am always looking for fun ways to engage with the student body and get to know students outside of my department. This seemed like a perfect opportunity to do that."

### What are some things that are often overlooked about class leadership?

**Albers:** "The amount of time kids and adults put in for leadership positions is extremely overlooked.

It's also extremely mentally taxing on individuals to be in charge of others."

**Baumfalk:** "A commonly underestimated aspect to leadership is finding the right mix between relationships and leading. A leader needs to have a relationship with their people so that they can understand them on a needs level and have empathy, however, they need to remain separated to the extent that they are comfortable stepping in (guidance, correction, etc.) when needed."

### What excites you about being a sponsor?

**Albers:** "I'm excited to see the ways in which the freshmen grow throughout the year. It's also been nice to put faces and names together early on in their academic careers since I only see a handful of freshmen in my classroom."

**Baumfalk:** "I would say that I am most excited to get to know the new students in our building."

Reporting by Aljiah Arias

## CHANGES



Photo by Kennedy Fischer

# NEW BUILDING, NEW FEATURES

## Students encounter many changes as school year begins at new high school

By Alijah Arias  
27aarias@usd489.com

Starting the school year in a new building was not the only “new” aspect for the student body of more than 1,000 students, as the administration and the staff have implemented many other new changes and different policies at Hays High School this year.

### Lighting

One of the aspects that people notice first is the school’s increased natural lighting. The use of exterior and interior windows is significantly higher compared to the old high school.

In the Commons, there are floor-to-ceiling windows, with seating areas for students to occupy before school or during lunch.

“I like the windows a lot,” senior Cailin DeBey said. “I can see more going on around the school, and it feels more open.”

Most classrooms were also designed with windows, providing more natural light. Many rooms also have interior glass sliding doors that are shatter proof, which open to the hallways for more flexibility. However, some people have brought up concerns with safety, as far as people being able to see inside rooms too easily.

“I’m very indifferent about the windows,” junior Issac Bloom said. “On one hand, it feels unsafe, but on the other hand, the school feels more opened up and bright.”

### Parking

While the front parking lot is for staff vehicles only, students have two areas to park: either the new student lot to the east of the building or the old student lot west of the old high school.

The student lots were created with better traffic flow in mind. While students are supposed to use the entrance from 13th Street, when they leave school, there are multiple exits. All cars drive south in the student lot to begin, but then, either they can turn left to come back to the exit on 13th Street, or they can turn right to drive around to the old student lot to the exit on Canterbury Drive.

The new student lot has also has perpendicular stalls instead of angled spots. This change was made to accommodate a larger student body, with perpendicular parking giving more space.

“It naturally provides some balance between east and west,” Henderson said. “That has been very effective, and even with our new neighbors [Hays Middle School] coming in January, I think it will be helpful with easing stakeholders driving through our lot.”

### Later Start/End Times

This year, the high school swapped beginning and dismissal times with the middle school. Instead of starting at 7:55 a.m., Hays High begins classes at 8:05 a.m., and instead of ending at 3:05 p.m., students dismiss at 3:15 p.m.

This change was implemented so that, when the middle school moves next door in January 2026, traffic will flow better.

“I like the later start,” senior Savannah Clingan said. “I was always late last year, and now I’m not as much.”



Photo by Jessica Augustine

### Phone Policy

When school started, students learned that this would be a “cell phone free campus.” Under the new student handbook policy for personal electronic devices, the administration has set the expectation that students put their phones on silent and keep their phones away out of sight from bell to bell.

“My favorite teacher in high school once told me, ‘Don’t create a rule you don’t intend to enforce,’” principal Shawn Henderson said. “From that advice, then, I would say that, with the full support of our teachers and staff, and ultimately the Board of Education, this was a rule everyone wanted us to enforce. I feel that

implementing a phone free campus was a great decision and one that holds value for our students, teachers, staff and families.”

While some students have struggled with the new policy, other students have accepted it without any issues.

“I really don’t mind the phone ban,” senior Jensen Miner said. “Yes, sometimes, I want to look at my phone when I have nothing else to do, but I have no problem keeping it in my bag all day.”

### Move-It Monday Schedule

This school year started with every Monday’s schedule being altered to accommodate students going to all eight classes and having a longer Advisory (formerly called PRIDE Time), with Mondays being called “Move-It Mondays.”

However, starting Sept. 29, the students learned that the all-class Monday schedule would be changed back to a block day, due to staff and student feedback. However, there is a 40-minute Advisory, so the schedule is different than the regular schedule on Tuesdays through Fridays, which has a 20-minute Advisory.

“I think that the new schedule that we got for Mondays is better than Move-It Monday, but I think the schedule last year was better than both of these Monday schedules,” junior Keith Robertson said.

STUDENT LIFE

# Student body celebrates its first Homecoming in new high school



Photo by Camdyn Darrah (Indian Call)

**LOCKED IN**  
Prior to Homecoming, seniors Keeley Lowry and Olivia Goetz work on decorations in the Commons during the lock-in hosted by Student Council on Sept. 18. Not only were Stu-Co members invited to help with preparations, but also all student body members.

**NEWLY CROWNED**  
During halftime of the Homecoming football game on Sept. 26, the new queen, senior Molly Buckles, and the new king, senior Jonathan Rigler, join together for photos. The Indian football team won its Homecoming game over Garden City, 48-20.



Photo by Alijah Arias



Photo by Dexter Sullivan (Indian Call)

**GET LOW**  
To end Homecoming week, students move together on the dance floor to a fast song at the annual Homecoming dance on Saturday, Sept. 27. The Homecoming dance was the first to be held in the new high school building, as it was in the Gold Gym.

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## SCHOOL STAFF

# New faculty members answer insightful questions

By Lily Butler  
26lbutler@usd489.com

For the 2025-2026 school year, Hays High School has welcomed one new administrator and six new teachers to the staff, including the following: Chris Drees, the Assistant Principal/Activities Director; Brandon Hardwick in Special Education; Wyatt Hessman in Industrial Technology; Dawson Johannes in English Language Arts; Erin Ray returning in Mathematics; Jessie Watson in Social Science and Alex White in Social Science.

To get to know them a little better, each of the seven new faculty members was asked the following questions. Here are some of their responses to shine light on their personalities.

**If your life had a theme song when you walked into your office or your classroom, what would it be?**

**Drees:** "In the Air Tonight by Phil Collins."

**Watson:** "The song that would play when I walked into a classroom would be 'Keep Your Head Up' by Djo."

**White:** "It's hard to pick just one song, so I'll play it safe with 'Life's Been Good' by Joe Walsh."

**If you had to eat one school lunch item for the rest of your life, what would you pick?**

**Johannes:** "Gotta be chocolate milk. Can't go wrong there."

**Watson:** "I would gladly take white chicken chili. That was one of my favorite school lunches growing up!"

**White:** "Italian Dunkers or breakfast for lunch is unbeatable in the lunchroom. It is an automatic doubles on sight."

**What was your high school self like? Would you have been friends with yourself?**

**White:** "I like to think I got along with most of my peers in high school. I was part of most of the clubs, but I also did sports every season. I had friend groups both in and out of sports/clubs."

**If you had any superpower, which one would be most helpful to you in your new job? Why?**

**Hessman:** "Shooting lasers out of my eyes. I'd be able to cut pieces of metal with my eyes instead of taking out the machine."

**Johannes:** "Being able to clone myself so I could work with multiple students at the same time."

**Watson:** "It would be the power to create duplicates of myself. It would be wonderful to have an extra me working on grading, lesson planning or helping with student questions/concerns on assignments."

**White:** "The ability to know what people were thinking would be the most helpful. Every student learns differently, so the ability to know what they are thinking would help me cater my lessons to each student specifically."

**What trend do we students follow that you secretly love (or hate)?**

**White:** "Nothing is worse than hearing 6-7 in my classroom. I would maybe look at it differently if it meant something, but it is completely pointless."

**If you could switch jobs with anyone for a day, who would you switch with? Why?**

**Hessman:** "I would switch with a professional athlete since I'm a sports fan through and through."

**White:** "Being a high-ranking politician or celebrity would be amazing, just to see what the famous experience is like. I would be more than happy to go back to being myself though."

**Do you have any weird or quirky talents? If so, what are they?**

**White:** "I might be a bit talentless, but I am a big movie buff! I love to spend free time watching movies and quizzing myself on the actors and actresses."

**What is a fashion trend that you wish students would bring back?**

**White:** "I always thought that 70's fashion or the 'Swag Era' of fashion was the best. I would be more than happy to change out my wardrobe for those eras."

**Hessman:** "I think I would bring the mullet trend back."

**What is something you wish students knew about the faculty and staff members?**

**Drees:** "Teachers (and admin) want the best for every student. We want to see all the students become successful in life, and sometimes, that means holding kids accountable. You might not always agree with us, but we want what is best for you!"

**Johannes:** "We want you to be successful! We are all willing to work with you and accommodate when necessary, so that you find success in high school. Do your best and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it."

**White:** "I wish that students would realize that teachers are people too! We make mistakes just like everyone else. We are trying our best to improve your lives! We want to see each and every one of you succeed. Success does not come without effort though!"

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Hays, KS 67601  
Bus: (785) 628-2151  
bruder@amfam.com

# This marks the 100th volume of the student news publication

With a new building and many new changes this school year, one aspect at Hays High School has remained constant: the student news publication, The Guidon. This year, the current Guidon staff will be the 100th news staff to produce the publication, as it enters its 100th edition.

Although the original Hays High School opened in 1886, there was not a formal, regular student newspaper until 1923, when Hays High had moved to the second building at 323 W. 12th St.

The first volume of The Guidon student newspaper was published in September 1923; some sources say that this newspaper was sold for just two cents to the student body. Since 1923, the publication has seen numerous changes.

The format of the news publication has changed many times; it has been an 8.5-inch by 11-inch half-tabloid newsprint newspaper, an 11-inch by 17-inch tabloid newsprint newspaper and, most recently since the 2021-2022 school year, an 8.5-inch by 11-inch glossy newsmagazine, like it is now.

In this, The Guidon's first issue of the 100th edition, we take a look back at The Guidon through the years.

Reporting by Lily Butler; images from The Guidon archives

# 100 VOLUMES OF THE GUIDON



March 29, 1968



Sept. 19, 1973



Sept. 16, 1977



Sept. 14, 1979



Sept. 12, 1997



November 1993



Aug. 25, 1997



Oct. 2, 2001

The Guidon has earned the Kansas Scholastic Press Association's All-Kansas Award, the top honor for scholastic publications in Kansas, 12 times since records were kept starting in 2009, including in 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025.

The Guidon has earned National Scholastic Press Association First Class status for at least these years: 2012, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

The Guidon has been a finalist for the National Scholastic Press Association's Pacemaker Award, the top honor for excellence in scholastic news in the United States, in 2009 and 2011, and it won a Pacemaker in 2009.

The online version of The Guidon at [www.hayshighguidon.com](http://www.hayshighguidon.com) went live in 2010, although the newspaper class published stories to the school website prior to that year.

The first article posted on The Guidon online site on Sept. 21, 2010, was titled "New law makes texting behind the wheel a fineable offense" by staff reporter Anna Shippy.

The Guidon online version earned the National Scholastic Press Association's Pacemaker Award in 2019.

The most viewed article on The Guidon online, with 4,245 views, was titled "Taylor Swift's 'Reputation (Taylor's Version)' Theories," posted by Multimedia Editor Alijah Arias on Dec. 6, 2024.

There have been 4,833 articles posted on The Guidon online news site.

To be a member of The Guidon staff, students must enroll in Media Design & Production (News); to take that class, students must pass either Journalism & Media Communications or Photo Imaging.



Sept. 19, 2008



Feb. 23, 2009



Feb. 1, 2017



May 2021



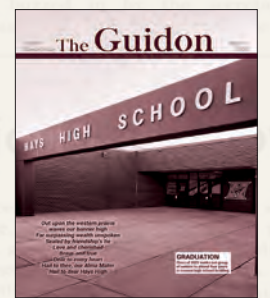
October 2021



December 2022



October 2024



Graduation 2025

# What does The Guidon (pronounced like 'guy-don') even mean?

How many of you have ever asked yourself this question, "What on earth does The Guidon mean anyway?"

According to Webster's dictionary, a guidon was a small triangular flag carried by a cavalry guide to show his position or the line on which a formation was to be made.

When the paper was first launched in September 1923, the staff had a difficult time coming up with an appropriate title until a student teacher suggested The Guidon after reading a book by the same title, written by Gen. George Custer's widow.

The book described many of Custer's marches and the important events in his life. Custer often camped in this area and spent time at Fort Hays. This being the case, The Guidon seemed to be the perfect name for Hays High's newspaper.

The purpose of a guidon and a school newspaper are similar. A guidon is needed to inform a company of the whereabouts of the guide and what to do in times of confusion. The object of any newspaper is the same. It is needed to inform the public of events that could possibly affect them and to raise awareness.

Article "Guidon name describes purpose" by Kimberly Mahanna in The Guidon on April 6, 1987

## Praises

- Homecoming
- Cooler weather
- Student discounts
- Diva not down, diva up
- Affordable healthcare
- Louis Tomlinson
- "This or That"
- Candid photos
- Smoothies
- Cinnamon
- Windows
- Clogs

## Protests

- Phone policy
- After-school traffic
- 90-degree parking
- Supplemental essays
- Tryyaki being closed
- American suburbia
- Powdered sugar
- Popping bones
- Fender benders
- FOMO
- Pepsi
- Balfour

## Staff Recs

### Alijah Arias

- "My Lady of Mercy" by The Last Dinner Party
- "Hocus Pocus"

### Lily Butler

- "Say You Love Me" by Fleetwood Mac
- "Coraline"

### Delia Dixon

- "This Must Be the Place" by Talking Heads
- "Fantastic Mr. Fox"

### Kennedi Fischer

- "Orbit" by Alice Phoebe Lou
- "Twilight"

### Avery Moreno

- "Crystallized" by John Summit and Inez
- "Your Name"

### Jacob Ridgeway

- "Betty" by AJR
- "The Phoenician Scheme"

### Brayden Staley

- "Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson
- "The Amateur"

### Allison Stecklein

- "Luther" by Kendrick Lamar and SZA
- "The Fall Guy"

### Jessica Augustine

- "No More Tears" by Ozzy Osbourne
- "Mean Girls"



Cartoon by Khandi Guzman

# Americans must resist efforts to undermine free expression

The issue you are holding marks the 100th edition of The Guidon. The 2025-2026 news staff proudly hopes to continue the tradition of informing the student body and the school community and expressing its views on local issues and global events. However, to continue this tradition, we need to ensure the First Amendment remains intact to guarantee our freedoms, such as freedom of speech and of the press.

Yet, these rights that our Constitution promises teeter on a quickly crumbling foundation. Suddenly, opinions shared in the United States can mean dismissal, discrimination, deportation or even death. This dangerous practice manifests itself in many different forms, from blatant censorship to outright violence.

Those undermining the First Amendment protections have various reasons. Some argue that the First Amendment protects freedom of expression but not freedom from consequences. Yet, the problem with this is that such consequences are not always justified. Should people who voice their thoughts on current political leaders risk losing their jobs simply for a difference in opinion? On the other hand, should freedom of speech also mean allowing hate speech or clear misinformation? Where do we draw the line on what is protected and what is restricted? And, if opinions differ, who determines what is justified or not?

Additionally, some claim that protecting national security is a major reasoning behind restricting access to unclassified information. Yet, this directly undermines independent journalism and the public's right to access information. Suppressing factual information oversteps the First Amendment. People form different opinions when presented with the same information, which provides an area for discussion. Denying access to information that allows people to form opinions is not acceptable, whether you agree with their opinions or not.

As we celebrate our 100th edition, The Guidon staff hopes to highlight the crucial role that journalism plays in empowering the people. Powerful figures may try to denigrate the value of journalism, attempting to sow seeds of doubt in Americans' minds and dismissing serious issues or factual information as "fake news." But, we must analyze information, think independently and form our own conclusions based on solid evidence. We must take action to remain a free-thinking, well-educated nation of citizens, who are capable of standing up for ourselves and for each other. Without effective journalism, our nation becomes unaware, uninformed and defenseless. We hold the power, but this power only remains if we resist attacks on our rights.

## Opinion of the Guidon Staff

Agree: 8

Disagree: 0

## The Guidon Staff

### Co-Editor-in-Chief (Copy)

Delia Dixon

### Co-Editor-in-Chief (Design)

Kennedi Fischer

### Managing Editor

Allison Stecklein

### Multimedia Editor

Alijah Arias

### Photo Editor

Jacob Ridgeway

### News Section Editor

Alijah Arias

### Features Section Editor

Lily Butler

### Sports Section Editor

Brayden Staley

### Entertainment Section Editor

Avery Moreno

### Asst. News Section Editor

Allison Stecklein

### Guest Cartoonist

Khandi Guzman

### Faculty Adviser

Jessica Augustine

## Information/Policies

The Guidon print edition is published seven times a year by the 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, 2024 and 2025; 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, 2024 and 2025.

Other policies are available upon request by contacting adviser Jessica Augustine at [jaugustine@usd489.com](mailto:jaugustine@usd489.com).

## Contact Us

Hays High School Guidon Newsmagazine  
 2500 E. 13th St.  
 Hays, Kan. 67601  
 785-623-2600  
[jaugustine@usd489.com](mailto:jaugustine@usd489.com)  
[www.hayshighguidon.com](http://www.hayshighguidon.com)



# MOVIES OF THE MONTH

WITH JACOB RIDGWAY

## New Guidon columnist shares three movie reviews for this month

### “KPop Demon Hunters” (2025)

Do not be deterred by the title of this film. Released this summer by Sony Animation, the animated “KPop Demon Hunters” is a well-directed and fun-filled watch.

The characters and the story are easy highlights of this movie, but the songs are the best part. Even people who are not fans of K-Pop, or Korean-based pop music, can enjoy these tunes, such as “Golden” by HUNTR/X or “Soda Pop” by Saja Boys.

If I had to name any issues with this movie, the pacing is not great, and as enjoyable as the characters are, most of them do not get nearly enough screen time. The story would have been a better fit for a television show that could have expanded the lore of the titular demon hunters a bit more.

However, it is still incredibly enjoyable, consistently funny and has deliciously catchy music. With an 8/10, I recommend checking out this movie. It is not for everyone, but it is for me.



Jacob Ridgway  
27jridgway@usd489.com

### “The Fall Guy” (2024)

I do not usually watch movies just because actors who I like are in them. But, “The Fall Guy” is an exception to that rule. Emily Blunt and Ryan Gosling are two of my favorite actors, and seeing them on a movie poster got me excited enough to check it out. Unfortunately, I cannot say I really enjoyed this 2024 movie all that much.

First, the positives. The movie is funny, as an action/comedy should be. The actors are well cast in their roles. And, the plot is fairly interesting. Unfortunately, that is where my compliments end.

While casual moviegoers may enjoy watching this movie, as someone who loves the craftsmanship that goes into filmmaking, it is hard to look past the technical elements, like the editing, lighting, sets and sounds, which were all less than stellar.

Overall, it is all right – a good movie to turn off your brain to, but with a 6/10, it was not for me.

### “Wicked” (2024)

Everyone and their mother has heard of “Wicked,” and I highly recommend it. Like the other movies I have talked about, not everyone will enjoy the musical, but I personally adore this movie.

This adaptation of the stage musical from 2012 has an excellent cast that performs most songs quite wonderfully. The songs are as catchy as they were in the musical; for instance, the film’s rendition of “Defying Gravity” was especially magical.

I have one issue with this movie, and it is a huge issue. The lighting is atrocious, and it is legitimately the only thing holding me back – in a major way. Scenes like the “Dancing Through Life” sequence were way too bright and oversaturated, while the scene where Elphaba and Glinda meet the Wizard is far too dark.

Still, that aspect is not enough to deter me from giving this film an 8/10. You can bet I am getting tickets to “Wicked: For Good,” which will be out on Nov. 21.

Do you have an old or new movie you want me to review? Email me at [27jridgway@usd489.com](mailto:27jridgway@usd489.com) with your suggestions!

## Blinded by the light, staff member discusses dislike of LED lights

The first ideas leading to LED lights were developed in the early 1900s, and in 1962, scientist Nick Holonyak Jr. produced a red LED. Many after him used his findings to create colored LEDs, and in 2002, white LEDs became available for commercial and everyday use. By 2019, LEDs started to be the main type of lighting used in various places, phasing out warm incandescent and halogen lights.

The switch to using LED lights has many great aspects; the lights save energy, last longer, are a brighter white and cover a wider area when used in a vehicle’s headlamps. I understand the improvements that come with using LED lights, but they may be harming you without you noticing.

In 2004, luxury cars started implementing the use of LED lights in headlamps instead of the usual halogen lights, but now, many common cars have LED lights. While halogen lights still are a cheaper option in cars, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said that about 75 percent of car models released in 2023 have LED headlamps.

While LED lights may be meant to help drivers to see the road much better, what about others on the road? I have astigmatism in my eyes, and I am aware I am more sensitive when it comes to some lights, so it may seem that I am overexaggerating to the reader, but when I am driving towards a lifted truck on the highway, I cannot see anything. I cannot see the median lines in the middle of the highway, I cannot see the full moon in the sky and I cannot see the ditch that I may or may not be driving into. I get told, when I talk about this subject, to look at the white line on the side of the road, but I respond with, “There are no lines for me to look at.”

Like headlamps, streetlights are also problematic. According to the European Union, LED lights in streetlamps do not help people to see any better; they create a glare, especially in the fog, and like with vehicle lights, force people either to look away or to not be able to see.

My dislike of LEDs also extends to LED Christmas lights. I have always been a sucker for Christmas nostalgia: the warmth that the holiday season brings when ripping open the wrapping paper on

an attractive package, only to reveal a pair of socks, all while sitting near an older relative’s Christmas tree strung with warm blue, green, red and yellow lights. I reminisce with photos of the incandescent bulbs I grew up with because they provided a nice, warm glow, but now, when I wake up to see the Christmas tree, it is blue. Why are you blue?

With all that said, I know I am just a hard hater of LED lighting because of my astigmatism, but I know that I am not the only one who dislikes them. They truly do ruin some experiences, like driving at night, which I love. And, while this is not a serious issue compared to some, it is hurting the quality of some people’s lives compared to old lighting.



Kennedi Fischer  
26kfischer@usd489.com

ATHLETICS

# FALL SPORTS SUMMARIES

## As end of season nears, boys and girls teams finish competitions

By Delia Dixon  
26ddixon@usd489.com

Photos by Ethan Branaman, Lily Butler, Cara Cunningham, Rylen Harrington, Lizzy Vajnar & Anna Zerr (Indian Call yearbook)

### CROSS COUNTRY with coach Jerold Harris

**What has been the most challenging part about the season so far?**

"The hardest part of the season is training hard and trying to stay injury free. Right now, we are battling some injuries. Traditionally, it is battling the 95+ degrees, but we have been blessed with some really nice temps."

**What has been your proudest moment from this season so far?**

"I have been proud of how hard the team has been working, how much they support each other and how hard they competed at our home meet. Most of our athletes had either a season best or personal best that day."

### FOOTBALL with senior Jaxson Chartier

**What has been your proudest moment from this season so far?**

"My most proud moment this season so far is our win against Derby at their house. Going into the season, we had something to prove to ourselves and to the rest of Kansas, and that's what we did."

**What are your goals for the rest of the season?**

"Our goals as a team are to finish the rest of our season with a near-perfect record, winning the next nine games, and to get to the state championship, and this year, win it. We have the offensive power and a great defense."

### GIRLS GOLF with coach Mark Watts

**What has been the most challenging part about the season so far?**

"With 16 girls out this year, the most challenging part as their coach is being able to work individually with each girl."

**What has been your proudest moment from this season so far?**

"Seeing the improvement in each girl from the first practice is what I enjoy the most."

**What are your goals for the rest of the season?**

"Finishing in the Top 3 at the sub-state tournament, which would qualify the team for the 5A state championship."

### BOYS SOCCER with coach Daniel Kelly

**What has been the most challenging part about the season so far?**

"The most challenging part has been developing chemistry with a lot of new players stepping up. We have a lot of last year's JV players stepping into new roles on varsity and meeting the challenge of high school."

**What are your goals for the rest of the season?**

"After winning a regional championship last year, we set our sights on achieving that end-of-season goal. We hope to use the regular season to compete and win enough games so that, this year, we can host some post-season games rather than having to go on the road."

### GIRLS TENNIS with coach Alicia Plante

**What has been the most challenging part about the season so far?**

"We have so many players at a similar level, so figuring out the best spot for everyone has been a challenge, but a good one to have!"

**What has been your proudest moment from this season so far?**

"I have seen individuals/doubles teams figure out how to think strategically on the court and play competitively in that way."

**How will you remember the 2025 season?**

"I will remember this season as my first year coaching tennis and as a head coach. It has been so great to work with such a wonderful group."

### VOLLEYBALL with senior Annie Humphrey

**What has been the most challenging part about the season so far?**

"The most challenging part has been keeping my mindset steady; I really go up and down in games, especially when they are close."

**What are your goals for the rest of the season?**

"My goal for the rest of the season is keeping my head held high and working through each mistake."

**How do you think you will remember the 2025 season?**

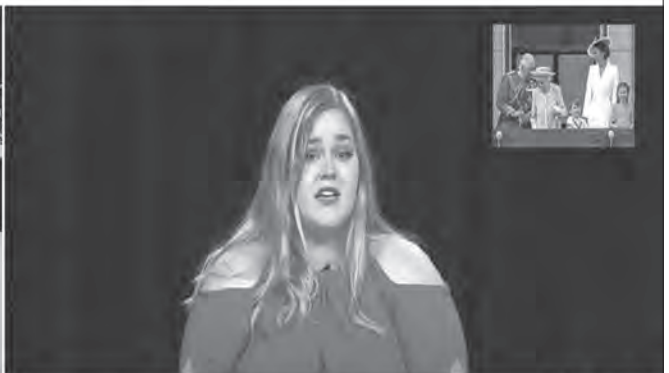
"I will remember my 2025 season as a season of wins, leadership and fun."

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ATHLETE  
SPOTLIGHT

Football

senior Holden Lind

In his last year of high school football, senior running back Holden Lind has shown himself as a force to be reckoned with. With a season total of 610 yards, an average of 152.5 yard per game and a total of 54 points, as of press time, he has been a defining member of the Indians' offensive attack.

**What has motivated you to be outstanding on the field?**  
“My coaches and my teammates always give me confidence to keep going even when times are rough.”

**What inspired you to start playing football?**  
“All my friends were doing it, so I decided to give football a try, and I became a running back because that's what coaches thought was best.”

**What are your plans for after high school?**  
“I am currently undecided about which college I want to go to, although I would like to try college football if I had the opportunity.”

Reporting by Brayden Staley

## FACILITIES

## Offer from local bank starts discussion about school's facility naming rights

By Brayden Staley  
27bstaleyherman@usd489.com

When the new Hays High School opened its doors on Aug 20, it was clear that the school contained enormous improvements, including to its athletic facilities, like the new home football field and the two new gyms. But, with those facilities came a controversy.

In July, Golden Belt Bank offered \$200,000 to USD 489 in return for exclusive naming rights to the football field for 10 years, with a contract acceptance deadline of Sept. 15.

At its Aug. 4 work session, the Board of Education addressed the bank's proposal, but the board failed to agree with a majority vote to add the item to its Aug. 18 meeting agenda, with board members Jayme Goetz, Allen Park and Curt Vajnar voting against adding the discussion item and board members Ken Brooks, Ruth Ruder and Meagan Zampieri-Lillpopp voting in favor of discussing it.

Vajnar, as board president, postponed the discussion until the Oct. 27 work session to allow more time to consider the issue. According to an Aug. 19 article on Hays Post, Vajnar gave multiple reasons for his decision, including that the district should initiate the process rather than reacting to others' offers, that the district should determine facility names, that he could not find another public high school in Kansas that has a field named after a business, that the district should create the contract and that the district should allow all businesses to have naming opportunities if the board determines they will allow for naming rights.

“I think there are a lot more considerations than to say, yes, to the first one that comes along,” Vajnar said in the article on Hays Post.

Those voting in favor of discussing the offer right away included Ruder, who said, according to the Hays Post article, “We just won the lottery, and you guys don't want to capitalize on it,” to which Vajnar said, “It's not the lottery.”

Goetz added that any contract for the football field should at least cover turf replacement, which is estimated to be around \$600,000 to \$800,000 every eight to 10 years.

While the Golden Belt Bank offer expired on Sept. 15, the Board of Education has created a committee of stakeholders to develop a policy about facility naming rights for the district.

“The district requested the formation of the committee to face the opportunities and options facing the district,” principal Shawn Henderson said. “As of right now, the committee has only met one time [and] has little to no information yet. Updates, sooner or later, regarding the issue will be shown in the months ahead.”

Meanwhile, others have their own opinions. “I feel like these are great conversations to have, and the community has the right to be heard since they are paying for our field and school,” head football coach Tony Crough said.

Junior Gus Corsair, a football player, had another perspective on the name of the field.

“If a sponsor tries to buy the rights to the name, I believe it does not really matter,” Corsair said. “After all, my favorite memories on this field are winning, not the name of the field.”

While the community awaits a decision, Vajnar said in the Hays Post that the board does not have a set deadline for a decision.

“The naming of USD 489 facilities belongs to the citizens of Hays, not a business or entity,” Vajnar said in the Hays Post. “At the end of that end zone, it says Hays. It does not say Hays High School. It belongs to all of us.”



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HALLOWEEN

# LIVING IN FEAR

## Multiple reasons explain why some people enjoy fearful triggers

By Avery Moreno  
26imoreno@usd489.com

With the scenery and the temperatures outside changing, the stores Halloween Express and Spirit Halloween opening for the season and the algorithm on TikTok pushing people's scary or spooky movie recommendations, it is clear Halloween is nearing. While some people love Halloween season – including the horror movies accompanying it – others are not fans. So, why do some people enjoy being scared by the horror of the season?

There are a number of reasons for some people's fascination with all things horror, starting with brain chemicals. According to the book "Creativity: The Human Brain in the Age of Innovation" by Elkhonon Goldberg, when people are exposed to triggers that may frighten them, the brain releases chemicals in reaction.

When triggered, the amygdala in the brain sends signals to the hypothalamus, and the hypothalamus releases norepinephrine into the bloodstream, causing an increase in blood pressure and heart rate and preparing the body for "fight or flight." The adrenal glands also release adrenaline, which contributes to that response, and cortisol, which is a natural stress hormone that also can strengthen fearful memories. And, the brain releases endorphins, the body's natural painkillers, to help a person cope, but being "feel-good" chemicals, they can also cause a person to become "addicted" to the feeling of fear.

But, according to Julia Wendt, the author of the paper "Mechanisms of Change," the more a person experiences fear, such as from a horror movie, the less the brain will have a response, meaning the person seeks more fearful stimuli for the same pleasurable effect. On the other hand, if a person fears scary movies, watching more of them can actually help overcome the fear he or she feels. This is the same concept as exposure therapy. It can be rewarding to overcome fearful triggers, and it can be cathartic to have an outlet for emotions one may be feeling.

**I THINK HORROR MOVIES ARE A GREAT THING TO WATCH WITH FRIENDS WHILE EATING SNACKS.**  
SENIOR NICK GARNER

Enjoying frightening triggers could also be an evolutionary trait, according to Ralph Adolphs from the National Institute of Health. Early humans had life-or-death threats to be scared of almost constantly, and most modern humans do not have that, so there could be a part of us that wants to have that fear, as it feels natural. Nowadays, though, people can choose, in terms of watching horror movies, when and where to be scared.

In addition to the chemical reactions, some people enjoy horror because it is novel – something different from what is expected, something to break the monotony of mundane, modern life. Others turn the time into social bonding experiences because watching horror media can be better with someone else to share the pain. As they say, "Misery loves company."

"I think horror movies are a great thing to watch with friends while eating snacks," senior Nick Garner said.

# SPOOKY VS. SCARY MOVIES

- "Beetlejuice" (1988)
- "Caper" (1995)
- "Coraline" (2009)
- "Frankenweenie" (2012)
- "Ghostbusters" (1984)
- "Gremlins" (1984)
- "Hocus Pocus" (1993)
- "Hotel Transylvania" (2012)
- "The Addams Family" (2019)
- "The Corpse Bride" (2012)
- "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993)
- "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (1975)

- "Alien" (1979)
- "Children of the Corn" (1984)
- "Get Out" (2017)
- "Hereditary" (2018)
- "Insidious" (2010)
- "It" (2017)
- "Speak No Evil" (2024)
- "The Conjuring" (2013)
- "The Exorcist" (1973)
- "The Invisible Man" (2020)
- "The Shining" (1998)
- "Us" (2019)



## Anticipated Albums

- bbno\$ - "bbno\$" (Self-Titled)
- Jin - "Echo"
- Khalid - "after the sun goes down"
- Roddy Ricch - "THE NAVY ALBUM"
- Taylor Swift - "The Life of a Showgirl"
- The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus - "X's For Eyes"



## Future Films

- Oct. 16  
"Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie"
- Oct. 17  
"After the Hunt"  
"Black Phone 2"  
"Good Fortune"  
"Pets on a Train"
- Oct. 24  
"Regretting You"  
"Shelby Oaks"
- Oct. 31  
"Bugonia"  
"Self-Help"
- Nov. 7  
"Die My Love"  
"I Wish You All the Best"  
"Predator: Badlands"



## Witty Wisecracks

- What's the cutest season?  
Aww-tumn!
- How did the tree get a new job?  
She had the qual-leaf-ications!
- What did the leaf say to the other leaf?  
"I think I'm falling for you!"
- What do you call a small pepper during the fall?  
A little chili!
- What is the best band to listen to in the fall?  
The Spice Girls!
- Where do pumpkin CEOs hold their business meetings?  
In the gourd-room!