THE WILLTAM WHITE



# THE DAILY NEWS

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## 19th straight trip to State sees Oakley in top ten



The Hays High Girls Golf team was honored during half time of the Hays High home game Friday night. Athletes Jaycee Oakley, Liz Dreiling, Ava Erbert, Kinley Pfannenstiel and Lily Butler competed in the 5A State Golf Tournament last week, Oakley bringing home a ninth place finish. As a team, the Indians notched their 19th straight trip to state, earning a Regional title in Hutchinson. <code>HAILEY</code> CHAPMAN / HAYS DAILY NEWS

## FHSU's Docking Institute releases 2024 Kansas Speaks survey

**By FHSU University** Communications

The Docking Institute of Public Affairs recently released the annual Kansas Speaks Survey of public opinion. A panel of 645 adult residents of Kansas ages 18 and older were surveyed online to assess their attitudes and opinions regarding various issues of interest to Kansas citizens. This year's survey covered topics including quality of life, the economy, ratings of elected officials, elections integrity, use of artificial intelligence tools, and a range of public

policy issues, a selection to 37.6 percent in 2024. of which includes attitudes toward legalizing medical and recreational marijuana, immigration, Medicaid expansion, and gun control.

"Kansans' rating of the Kansas economy has become more positive in the past three years" said survey report co-author Jian Sun. "The percentage of Kansans rating the Kansas economy as excellent or very good increased from 16.1 percent in 2022 to 21.1 percent in 2024. The percentage of people feeling the Kansas economy is getting worse decreased from 43.7 percent in 2022

With the declining inflation, a lower percentage of people were concerned that the Kansas economy would seriously threaten their or their family's welfare as compared with last year. However, many felt the inflation had affected 'a great deal' their family (51.2 percent) and other Kansans (59.5 percent) in the past year."

Select findings from the 2024 Kansas Speaks Survey include:

About 73 percent support legalizing medical marijuana in Kansas

SEE FHSU A2

## **Transient Guest Tax** scheduled for April increase



A map of Kansas shows Transient Guest Tax increases across the state, Hays falling within the 7% increase category. Surrounding areas including Ellis, Plainville and Stockton will have a TGT increase of 5%, COURTESY PHOTO

#### By Gaille Pike

Special to the Hays Daily

On Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, following discussion, Hays City Commissioners unanimously adopted Charter Ordinance No. 33, which modifies previous Charter Ordinances, to increasing the transient guest tax (TGT) levied by the city by 1.25% to 8.75%

Deputy Manager Collin Bielser, who presented the Ordinance for adoption stated that the Charter Notice would be published on Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, 2024, on the City's website haysusa.com, which is the official news outlet for City legal notices.

According to Deputy

City Manager Bielser, following the Nov. 1, 2024, final publication, there is a 60-day period during which a charter ordinance may be challenged by a petition of not less than 10% of voters who voted in the last City

The protest period will end on January 1, 2025. If a valid petition is presented, the charter ordinance will be put to a vote of the Havs residents. If a valid petition is not presented, the Kansas Department of Revenue would be notified and the new TGT would be implemented on April 1, 2025.

Deputy City Manager reminded Commissioners that the current TGT of 7% is comprised of 5% established in 1998 for Convention and Visitor Bureau operations and another 2% added

to the levy in 2018 to pay or the North Vine Street Corridor improvements.

"To go on a 5% for your operating budget for almost 30 years, 26 years, is quite impressive, but the CVB fund is becoming unsustainable. Technologies change and costs have increased. They're doing a lot of things differently, and if we want them to continue providing valuable services they do for Havs, the rate increase for them to be sustainable is necessary," said Deputy City Manager Bielser. He also reminded Commissioners that the 2025 CVB Budget was developed and approved using the 8.75% rate.

Deputy City Manager Bielser stated that the TGT 1.25% increase is estimated to generate

SEE TAX A2

#### Sporer Land Development \$96 12 Effective Nov 1

## **Obituaries**

#### WILLIAM WHITE

William Layton White of Wimberley went to Join the LORD on October 24th, 2024, he was surrounded by his family. He is survived by his sisters Jeanne Robison, Patricia Stenroos, and Paula Brizendine, and his children Samantha Estes, Darlene Byrd, and Justin White, as well as his 8 grandchildren.



Continued from Al

(12 percent oppose), while about 61 percent support legalizing recreational marijuana (22 percent oppose)

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Support for Medicaid expansion in Kansas in 2024 continues to be at about 70 percent, and 51 percent of the respondents felt the issue was highly or extremely important as they decide who gets their vote to represent them in the Kansas Legislature, compared to 8 percent who felt the issue was not important at

Most agree that legal immigrants contribute to the economic vitality of Kansas (61 percent) and to their own community (59 percent), with disagreement at about 15 percent on both questions

· Regarding illegal immigration, 45 percent disagree that illegal immigrants contribute more to society than they take in terms of resources, while about 27 percent agree with the statement

Over half agree that education beyond high school is a good return on investment for both the student (56 percent agree; 18 percent disagree) and for the general population of Kansas (55 percent agree; 13 percent disagree)

dayan: Cost of housing was also a concern for Kansans, with almost one third (32 percent) of the respondents saying they are insecure about their housing situation.

"We've been tracking housing issues for three years now, as housing is not just important to a family's quality of life but also to a community's

ability to attract and retain a workforce," said Brett Zollinger, Docking Institute director survey co-author. percentage concerned about the cost of housing in their community edged down only slightly in 2024 to 68 percent from 72 percent in 2023 and 73 percent in 2022.'

In a question about affordable childcare asked for the first time this year, strong majorities that access to affordable childcare strengthens the economy (79 percent agree; 3 percent disagree) and that affordable and accessible childcare is an obstacle to women's economic participation (68 percent agree; 12 percent disagree).

A complete copy of 2024 Kansas Speaks Survey results, as well as results from previous years, can be found at https://www.fhsu.edu/ docking/Kansas-Speaks/.

Two political scientists from other Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) universities collaborated with Docking Institute staff on this year's survey, Alexandra Middlewood from Wichita State University and Michael Smith of Emporia State University.

The two policy fellows worked closely with Docking Institute researchers in establishing survey content and on methodological decisions. Smith led on survey content related to election security, diversity in representation of elected officials, care for the elderly, and abortion attitudes/policy questions. Middlewood led in developing content that focused on childcare, immigration, water conservation, and reasons for gun ownership and political ideology questions.

## Sept City Sa 7% compar

By Gaille Pike

Special to the Hays Daily

Director of Finance Rupp presented the City's Monthly Financial Report to the Hays City Commission on Oct. 24, 2024, noting a 7% increase in Sept. 2024 sales tax collection compared to Sept. 2023.

Director Rupp reported that MTD general fund sales tax collections were at \$846,911, which was an increase of \$58,000 (7%) compared to last year. He noted YTD sales tax collections were \$7,296,742, up \$41,647 or .57% as compared to last

Director that the s age was u year over .79%. He re county sale are at \$86 year over 7%. Direct that the re quarter to tax collect cation was 5.8%. Per these top 73% of the collections

Director ported th Sept. total increase o pared to t

quarter.

## "Spooky Seaso

By Gaille Pike

Special to the Hays Daily

Convention Visitors Bureau (CVB) Executive Director Melissa Dixon provided a preview of upcoming Hays Happenings at the Oct. 24, 2024, City of Hays Commission meeting and reminded both Commissioners and the community to visit https://www. visithays.com/ for complete listing Halloween activities and throughout the month of November.

"I want to be sure you that I want to be sure you know that the Hays Community Theater is going to extend that spooky sea weekend with their City | Hi They're year, but t consistent ented staff of taking town," said Director D

She stat 1-2 from 20 minute guided wa vides Hays the spooky that walke Old Hays ( Tickets ar www.hctks one-hour

First Ur Church T will be he p.m. on

gins & end

### Southbound US

By Gaille Pike

Special to the Hays Daily

According to the Ellis County Sherrif's the scene Office Oct. 28, 2024, Press Release, deputies responded to an

early Sur (Oct. 27, 20 Ellis Count Meza, age was prono

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and Environment (KDHE) and United Environmental States Protection Agency (EPA) standards. The Ellis water treatment plant chlorinates all water supplied from City owned wells before

entering th Accordin September: Crier (Ellis annual au creases for and sanita effect Nov. bills, cover Sept. 10-Oc https://ellis. city-newsle mation and

current Util