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DAILY NEWS

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CHERRYROAD MEDIA | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024 VOL 94 NO. 114 \$2.00

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. HAILEY CHAPMAN / HAYS DAILY NEWS

FHSU's Docking Institute releases 2024 Kansas Speaks survey

By FHSU University Communications

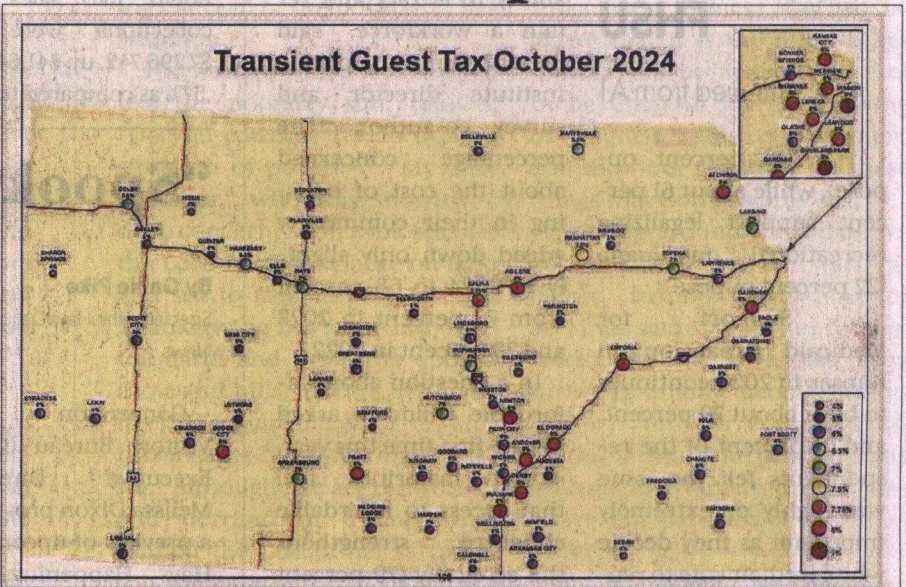
The Docking Institute of Public Affairs recently released the annual Kansas Speaks Survey of public opinion. A panel of 645 adult residents of Kansas ages 18 and older were surveyed online to assess their attitudes and opinions regarding various issues of interest to Kansas citizens. This year's survey 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 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

to 37.6 percent in 2024. 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 News

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 City 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 election. 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 Hays 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 Bielser 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 for 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 Hays, 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

Effective Nov 1 \$26 13

Sporer Land Development

