

# Donated USD489 Scoreboard destroyed by high winds

**By Gaille Pike**  
Special to the Hays Daily News

USD489 Superintendent Ron Wilson informed the Board of Education (BOE) on Apr. 21, 2025, that the district's newest scoreboard had recently been destroyed.

“Some of those high winds that came a few weeks ago just it off its structure and crumbled it. So, we’re working on solutions right now to get this scoreboard replaced. Daktronics has been a good partner with us, and we’ve been working so closely with them on scoreboards for new bond construction

fields that they have supplied us, free of charge, a portable one to temporarily use,” said Superintendent Wilson.

The barely year-old, slightly over \$33,500 scoreboard was gifted to the District in Mar. 2024 by Nex-Tech (\$18,685 contribution) and Thirsty’s Brew Pub & Grill (\$15,005) to replace

the current one at Hays High School’s athletic field, which will become Hays Middle School.

“So, we’ll get one out there soon. But we’ve got figure some things out before we bring a proposal to the Board of how that’s going to work,” Superintendent Wilson said.

# SCAM Alert from KDOT

**By Gaille Pike**  
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On Apr. 24, 2025, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) issued a statement that the Department has been aware of a recent increase in fraudulent text messages regarding KDOT and

unpaid tolls.

“We want to be absolutely clear – KDOT does not collect tolls and KDOT will never ask for payment by text message. These messages are a scam. We’ve seen a surge in people reaching out about these scam texts. Don’t click links, go to websites listed, or interact with the text. Knowing

it’s a scam goes a long way in protecting your personal information. Citizens who receive the text should report it and delete it,” KDOT Deputy Secretary Vanessa Lamoreaux said.

Anyone who may have provided payment information should immediately contact their bank or credit card company. The messages should

also be reported to the Federal Trade Commission and/or Internet Crime Complaint Center.

The scam messages are also showing as from the Kansas Turnpike Authority. More info on how the KTA is addressing the situation can be found here: <https://ksturnpike.com/information-security>

# USD489 adopts K-12 ELA Curriculum

**By Gaille Pike**  
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On Apr. 21, 2025, following discussion, the USD489 Board of Education (BOE) approved a nearly \$799,728.95 quote from Savvas Learning Company for a District-wide (K-12) English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum.

“It does seem like a larger price tag at \$800,000 but it is K-12, nearly 3500 students. It is for six years, so when you divide it out, that’s about \$43 to \$45 per student per year for this resource for them.

We really didn’t put a lot of bells and whistles in. This is just the digital and interactive print access. The teacher materials come free of charge,” said Assistant Superintendent - Director of Curriculum Shanna Dinkel.

She reminded the BOE that selection of a District-wide ELA curriculum has been a four year work-in-progress. “All our teachers spent three years becoming better teachers of reading. We needed to know what the latest research was telling us about effective instruction when it comes

to all these ELAs for reading, writing, spelling, those foundational bodies,” Dinkel said.

Dinkel explained to the BOE that following the Board’s approval of the Savvas quote, the District would use the upcoming May Professional Day to provide teachers with an overview of the program so they can plan and get ready to implement the ELA curriculum for the 2025-2026 school year. She stated that the District will follow up in a Fall 2025 Professional Day once the teachers have had a chance to use the curriculum to dig a

little deeper into the program and its features. Dinkel reported that several teachers piloted the program this year for at least six to eight weeks before the recommendation to purchase the Savvas ELA curriculum was brought to the Board.

“I want to thank all of our teachers and make sure that I give a shout out to their commitment. I want to make a note of how critical our teachers were in reviewing this and really wanting to make sure whatever we move forward with has what our students need. My perspective is that

it’s really kind of neat that it is a K-12 adoption with the same program because we haven’t had that since I’ve been here,” said Dinkel.

The full 2024-2025 BOE calendar is available online. Agendas are available prior to meetings. BOE Regular Meeting Live video via YouTube is provided by Hays High Tribe Broadcasting (a student run program) and a playlist of previously recorded BOE meetings is available. Visit <https://www.usd489.com/page/board-of-education> for more information.

## O’LOUGHLIN

Continued from A1

Board Member Ruth Ruder commented that it is amazing to see this new building progressing and commented that there have been no bathrooms at the field for over 40 years. “That might be my proudest accomplishment of my time here—to actually have an outdoor bathroom at the football/soccer facilities and not make people walk. I’m pretty proud of that,” Wilson said.

Wilson provided aerial views of the progress at O’Loughlin where work continues to cut the road at 12th Street, lay down area for materials and bring in suitable fill for the road.

“And I just thought of this this morning: May, which is approaching fast, is just our four-year anniversary of just how we kicked off the bond. It’s hard to believe it’s been four years since we started that with our school bond community committee meetings that happened right in this room. And that successful bond election was in May of 2022 but back in May of 2021 is when we started this whole process. So, it’s been a full four years, and we still have probably about another year a few months. It’s been great, and it’s really changing our community and our school. It’s very exciting and I just wanted to celebrate that,” said Superintendent Ron Wilson.

# Dine Out and Give Back: Gambino’s Partners with Local Home & School Organization for Two Fundraising Nights

### Press release

The local Home & School organization is inviting families, friends, and community members to enjoy a meal that gives back. In partnership with Gambino's Pizza, two upcoming Dine Out Nights will support educational initiatives and student needs.

On Thursday, May 1st and Thursday, May 15th, from 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM, Gambino's will donate 10% of all sales during the event

window—no promo code necessary. All orders qualify whether customers choose delivery, carry-out, or dine-in at the Hays location.

“This is a fun and easy way for families to support our school while enjoying dinner together,” said Derrick Bussman, President of Wilson Home & School. “We’re grateful to Gambino’s for their generosity and commitment to our students.”

Proceeds from both nights will help fund classroom resources,

and other school-wide needs that directly benefit students and teachers.

All are welcome to participate, and the organization encourages supporters to help spread the word.

To place an order, contact Gambino's Hays location at (785) 621-4922 or visit their website at [gambinospizza.com](http://gambinospizza.com).

For more information about Wilson Home and School, find us on Facebook.

## PRAYER

Continued from A1

School students leading prayer and TMP students singing. This year we have young people from Holy Family, along with Principal Mandy Meagher and TMP Spanish teacher Melissa Pinkney and her students praying for education. Melissa was a student of mine when I taught at TMP, and it is

always such a blessing to see former students involved in special events such as National Day of Prayer. I am also especially excited to see new faces at the event.”

The National Day of Prayer has a long history. In 1775, in the midst of the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress issued a proclamation setting aside a day of prayer. In 1952, Congress passed an act establishing an annual day of prayer, which was signed into law by President Harry Truman. In

1988, Congress amended that law and designated the annual observance as the first Thursday in May.

Braun, who at one time faced serious health issues, said, “In my own spiritual journey, prayer was so important to my healing and recovery. I believe that these prayers for our nation will be lifted up to God and help our country heal, as well. That is why the National Day of Prayer is so important to me, I know what the power of prayer can do.”

## ART DAY

Continued from A1

Granberry said. “It’s also nice for the freshman because they don’t always get to work with the seniors. They encourage the first- and second-year students to work harder or dig deeper with their ideas.”

After the sidewalk art competition finished, the students toured campus to explore majors and programs for an art career and learn how FHSU can help them develop their skills.

The day concluded with students viewing the exhibition in Gross Memorial Coliseum and

receiving prizes for their pieces. Cesar Morales, Garden City High School, won Best of Show and the \$1,000 Earl O. and Winona M. Field Scholarship for his charcoal piece ‘No Time to Die.’

Lauren Sargent, FHSU Senior Administrative Assistant of Art and Design, was a principal organizer of the 50th High School Art Day and was instrumental in adding new elements to the tradition.

“It feels good to offer more opportunities to prospective students,” she said. “We’ve added first, second, and third place awards to every school and a ‘Best of Show’ award. So many different people have come together to pull this off and help me, but it feels good to

keep doing more and better every year.”

Sargent said she wanted Art Day to encourage creativity in students by expanding their artistic capabilities.

“We’re creative chaos here,” she said. “We encourage that communication and willingness to try anything and have fun with it. We hope it shows that our area at Fort Hays is the place to be, especially for young artists.”

For additional information about High School Art Day, contact Lauren Sargent at 785.628.4247 or by email at [Itsargent@fhsu.edu](mailto:Itsargent@fhsu.edu). More information can be found at <https://www.fhsu.edu/art-and-design/news-and-events/>.

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(USPS 238-060)  
Published Wednesdays and Saturdays by CherryRoad Media.  
Periodicals postage paid at Hays, Kan., and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:  
Circulation Department,  
The Hays Daily News,  
507 Main, Hays KS 67601

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