

## THE CORONAVIRUS SPREADS INTERNATIONALLY

By Jonah Shabry

The origin of the Coronavirus came from China, more specifically, Hubei, China. The disease is believed to have originated from bats, and later be transferred to snakes. These wildlife creatures were sold illegally on the seafood market, and that is how it spread from bats to snakes and onto humans. It has become apparent that medicinal approaches are not the only battle faced in trying to eradicate this virus. The virus spreads through human droplets via coughing, sneezing and other interactions involving bodily contact. Some signs and symptoms

of the virus are runny nose, headache, coughing, sore throat, fever and a general feeling of being sick. The virus has and will continue to affect people with a weaker immune system such as babies, young toddlers, and the elders.

The way it affects humans is by first going through the nose or mouth until it finds a host cell in the respiratory system. From there the infected host cell bursts and starts to rapidly spread and infect other cells throughout the body. The virus affects the lungs by causing pneumonia and pulmonary edema, which is swelling in the lungs. The resulting physiological changes that

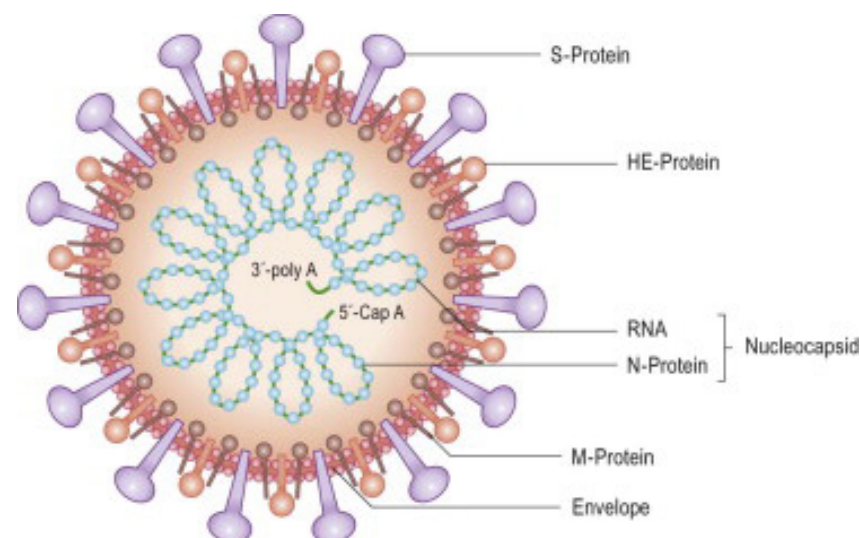
stem from a lack of oxygen are detrimental. Since blood is responsible for carrying oxygen to organs that need it, a limited amount of oxygen here results in deprivation throughout the body.

The virus has spread worldwide very quickly, but the total number of cases has remained relatively small. As of writing, 4,690 Coronavirus cases have been confirmed, of these 106 have died and 79 have recovered. The virus has spread to many countries including, Thailand (14 cases), Taiwan (8 cases), Japan and Singapore (7 cases each), Australia and USA (5 cases each), Malaysia and South Korea (4 cases each), France (3 cases), Canada

and Vietnam (2 cases each), and Cambodia, Germany, Nepal and Sri Lanka (1 case each), with China leading with 4,610 cases of the virus.

As time goes on, these numbers are growing and will spread to more countries. If this hits India, the numbers will rapidly increase due to being the second most populated country in the world.

This virus is not being



treated with ease. Worldwide, there are precautions being taken to inhibit the further spreading. From airport screenings to the lockdown of cities linked to the coronavirus origination, this

virus is acknowledged for its destructive potential.

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## THE STATE OF THE UNION CAUSES REACTIONS AMONG PARTIES

By Tomi Simmons

On February 4, 2020, President Donald J. Trump gave the State of the Union Address to the United States and Congress. It began and ended with tensions between parties when President Trump and Nancy Pelosi did not shake hands upon meeting and Pelosi visibly shrugged.

In Trump's address, there was a theme of prosperity in the United States and

spoke about the "future of America blazing bright."

The main highlight of the speech was the incline of the job market and how much the unemployment rate has lowered since he has been president. The President claimed that since his election, seven million jobs have been created by his administration. He also championed the changes of the NAFTA trade agreement and for changing it to the

U.S. Mexico Canada Trade Agreement.

Trump highlighted several countries that needed to "restore democracy," Venezuela was one of them. Because of this, Juan Guaidó, a Venezuelan politician, sat in the gallery.

Healthcare was a passionate topic for both parties. Blaming "free healthcare as a luring tool for illegal immigration," President Trump slammed Universal



Photo from The New York Times. Pictured is Nancy Pelosi ripping up the transcript of the State of the Union after President Trump finished his speech.



Photo from The National Review. Pictured is President Trump giving the State of the Union address on February 4, 2020.

healthcare and rallied for private insurance. Republicans cheered and booed at the universal health care topic. However, many democrats held up the number three with their hands, signifying the H.R.3 act that is supposed to lower drug costs for Medicare. It was passed by the house but it was languished by the senate.

Several times the President referenced the border wall and the positive effects of it he believes to be true. I.C.E. officers were praised for arrest-

ing illegal immigrants. The theme was once more America first and the idea of America is still being "rebuilt."

The reactions of the State of the Union were considered controversial. It was on the eve of the impeachment senate votes. A couple of democrats walked out while President Trump was giving the address. There were complaints about the "reality television tones" that they perceived the President had. There were shouts in the audience of

the word "no" when Rush Limbaugh was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. On the other spectrum, republicans cheered and chanted "four more years" for President Trump's re-election. At the end of the address, Nancy Pelosi tore up her copy of the transcript.

The next day the senate deemed that there was not enough evidence for the President to be impeached.



# VIEWPOINTS

## SIMPLE DATE IDEAS IN MCPHERSON AREA

By Meghan Smith

As Valentine's Day approaches, students at McPherson College are looking for cheap dates in the area to celebrate the holiday with their significant other or with some friends. Since I have lived in the area for a while, I

have a bit of insight to offer for students.

One of my favorite places to go in the McPherson area is Coronado Heights, close to Lindsborg, Kansas. It's an easy, 30-minute drive. While there, you can hike the trails, watch the sun set together, bring a picnic, or even stargaze

when it gets dark.

Another cheap, simple date idea is to take advantage of parks in the area. McPherson alone has two parks, Lakeside Park and Wall Park. If it isn't too cold, you could take a walk, pack a picnic, throw a football around, or even play Frisbee golf.

For animal lovers everywhere, there is a fun, free date just for you. McPherson has a humane society that loves when people come in and play with the cats. There is also an animal shelter where you can volunteer to play with dogs.

There are some oth-

er dates that are a little pricier, but still fairly simple. Wichita, Salina and Hutchinson all have places with laser tag. There are also bowling allies and movies for another fun date option. The McPherson area also has plenty of restaurant options. For Mexican food, there is La

Fiesta and Tres Amigos in McPherson, or Jaliscos in Lindsborg. Other nicer restaurants include Five Loaves, Kansas Bar and Grill, Applebee's, or Farley's in Lindsborg.

## TRAVEL YOUNG

By Hannah McKay

During January, many students took advantage of McPherson College's study abroad classes. These courses lasted about one to two weeks depending on the course. During this time, students went to Chicago, New York, and even as far as Greece, Italy and India. These trips create lifelong memories and experiences that I believe everyone should try to experience at least once

before they graduate and enter the "real world."

Traveling while you're young and in college may seem impossible, but it is worth it. You should take the time to see the world in a way you haven't before, get a taste for life that's different than your own. By traveling you can learn how to use public transportation in Chicago and see as many Broadway shows as your heart desires. You can spend the day admiring Michelange-

lo's masterpieces and then spend the night watching the sunset over the river in Italy at Michelangelo's Piazza. You can get your heartbroken by seeing how the people of India live in a third world country but still invite guests into their homes with open arms. These moments will define your life and stick with you forever.

Most importantly, get cultured while you are young. Traveling will show you how different the world is but also how magnificent it is. You will gain a newfound respect and appreciation for everything you have, while others struggle to just eat one meal a day. Traveling will help you see the world in a new way, and maybe, hopefully, lead you to help take charge and make the world into a better place. The best way to start is to just simply travel.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Spectator encourages readers to submit letters to the editor regarding topics covered in the paper. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length and are due to [spectator@mcpherson.edu](mailto:spectator@mcpherson.edu). For printing schedule, please consult with the Editor in Chief. The Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, space and libel. For any questions, please email us.

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## NEW BOWLING NIGHT INTRODUCED ON TUESDAYS

By Meghan Smith

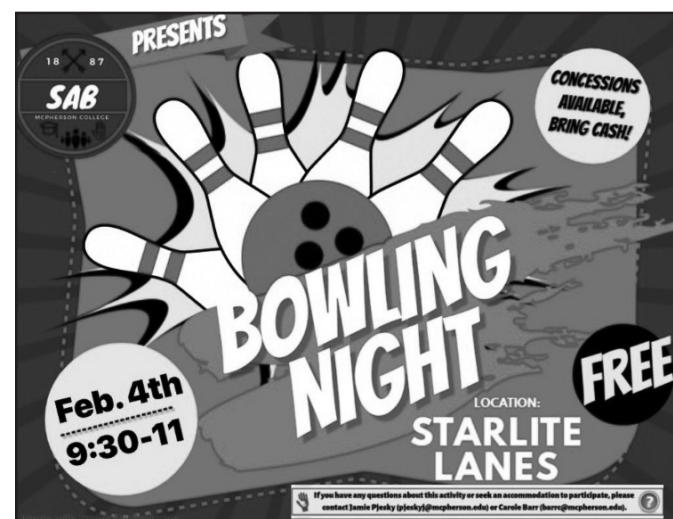
McPherson College cares a lot about offering activities that students will enjoy. On alternating Tuesdays, the Student Activities Board offers affordable fun. The activities are \$2 movies at the local movie theater, VIP McPherson 4, and bowling from 9:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the local bowling alley, Starlite Lanes. Along with paying \$2

for a movie, students also get a free small popcorn. Every other Tuesday, students have the choice between four different movies with starting times ranging from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Bowling on the other Tuesday is free and offers a concession stand for the students, but they only take cash. When asked about the importance of \$2 Tuesdays for SAB, Vice-President Liz Thornton

stated, “It has been a tradition since even my parents went to school (at McPherson College).” She also wanted to remind the student body that there is free popcorn. Along with that, Thornton went on to talk about how bowling is new this year but has had a great turn out. One group of friends, including Linda Flores, Nick Navarro and Trey Brand, have made it a tradition to

go to \$2 Tuesdays every week since starting at McPherson College. “\$2 Tuesday is probably my favorite thing hosted by the school,” said Brand.

If you are ever looking for an activity to do on Tuesday nights, try out \$2 movies or free bowling. It is affordable for college students, a nice break from homework and a way to connect and meet new people.



## “CREEPY! CREEPY!” DEBUTS FEBRUARY 18-22

By Tomi Simmons

Coming soon to McPherson College is the world debut of the play “Creepy! Creepy!” Washington elementary fourth-grader, Oliver Bowman is the author of the adopted children’s play. “Creepy! Creepy!” is adapted from the illustrated books “Creepy Carrots” and “Creepy Pair of Underwear” written by Aaron Reynolds. “Creepy Carrots,” tells

the story of the main character, Jasper the Rabbit, enjoying carrots until they begin following him everywhere he goes. “Creepy Pair of Underwear” highlights Jasper the Rabbit and his pair of underwear that comes to life. The play contains both storylines but will be cut into two parts for storytelling purposes.

“Creepy! Creepy!”

will be Bowman’s first play. He dabbles in creative writing like short stories, fan fiction and poetry. “The first part took me about seventh months but the second part I had one month to do.” Bowman had a strict timeline because of the date for the show. His writing schedule consisted of an hour to an hour and a half every day at school during

his Enhanced Learning Opportunity time. Bowman’s mother, Professor Becki Bowman, helped edit and format the play. “I first read it in first grade and I went through a phase of reading the books a lot,” Bowman said, “My dad thought the books would be good for a children’s play and I agreed to write it.”

The story is going

to be told through the art of puppets and live characters. The puppets were created by the Mesner Puppet Theatre in Kansas City.

The most exciting part of the experience is that all of the elementary schools in McPherson have a chance to see it February 18-22nd. Throughout the week, there will be a 1 p.m. showing for the ele-

mentary students to enjoy the play. “The most exciting part is that my classmates do not know that I wrote “Creepy! Creepy!” It is going to be a surprise for all of them.” Friday and Saturday, February 21-22, there will be a 7 p.m. showing open to the public.





# CAMPUS

## INSIDE OF YOUTH EMPIRE A FUTURE DESIGN BRAND

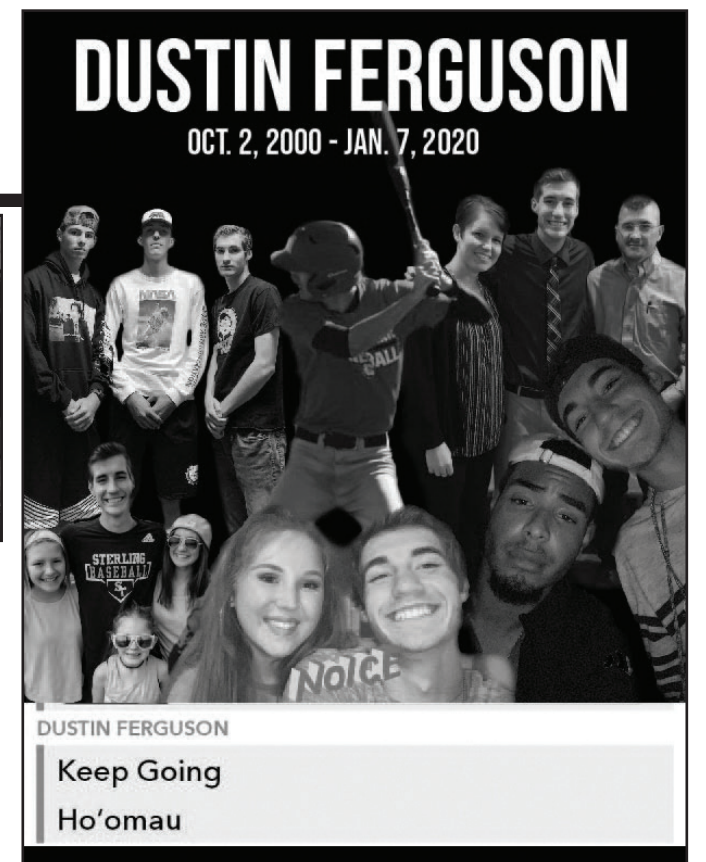
By Joe Robben

An inspiring and innovative clothing brand has been appearing more and more around McPherson, Kan. Youth Empire apparel is being sported around as the brand is becoming more fashionable. The founder of Youth Empire, Parker Hull, a junior at McPherson College, got the idea by wanting to help prosper our nation's ambitious youth

and to unhinge their true potential. Hull implements this vision by donating 10% of profits to youth charities such as Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Hull said, "The youth holds the future in their hands, and it is our job to build our youth for the future." Inspiring the youth and helping them reach their full potential is a way for them to start positive change in our world. He started

from the very bottom in November 2018 as he received a Horizon Fund Grant from McPherson College. The grant is up to \$500 to help McPherson College students pursue their ideas. This gave him a jump start for his brand. The brand has started around McPherson but is starting to grow through the U.S. and he hopes to branch off into different regions. He has a variety of appar-

el ranging from shirts and hoodies for men and women, and he just launched crop top hoodies for women as well. Hull advertises mainly from his social media and plans to make an online store. He plans to build and grow Youth Empire to the next level as he gains more and more supporters.



McPherson College had several trips off campus during Interterm. This year's trips included Italy and Greece (Business), India (Theatre), New York City (Theatre) and Chicago (Education). Students, alumni and friends of the college participated in these trips. The Theatre trip to India had a one-night only performance of "Speak Truth to Power" after returning to McPherson. They performed it three times in India.

# SPORTS



## DEFINING MCPHERSON SOFTBALL

By Tyler Dunn

McPherson softball season starts February 15th, and all eyes are on last year's returning players. In the 2019 season, Bulldog softball became all conference champions, bringing home the title for the program. With the season around the corner the team is excited to prove that last season was just the first step in defining the softball legacy.

Players from last year's team attribute part of their success to their culture; giving it credit as the background of their winning mentality. It starts off the field for the Bulldogs, who can be seen around the campus doing things like campus clean up, community service projects and many have on campus jobs that require dedication and commitment. For example, sophomore Karlie Sneed is a student worker in the writing center. She dedicated herself to others by assisting her classmates, using her English major to help out, all while balancing softball on top of that.

Furthermore this team supports one another, no matter what comes up. For example, when junior Cori Alexander injured her finger she said her teammates, "encouraged me extra when I came back

to take ground balls and started screaming around me," and she used that as a testament to their culture. Which she went on to compare to when you "link up with your favorite cousin and get to be as goofy as you want with them. It's us against the world mentality."

Aside from everything else the team does outside of softball, they train like champions. The team has workouts that help them stay in peak condition for the season. They do agility and strength training, supporting each other with uplifting cries that can be heard up and down the sports center. Sometimes they practice outside and sometimes they'll get up at 5 a.m. and practice at an indoor facility 20 minutes away so that they can get their work in before the roads get bad due to bad weather later in the day.

This is the kind of dedication that drives upperclassmen to leave their mark and motivates underclassmen to live up to their coaches' and community's expectations. If you want to support the Softball program, they'll be in action February 15th, against Doane University at Bulldog Park.



Members of the Bulldog Softball team pose for a photo.

Photo by Tyler Dunn.



McPherson College's cheer team takes second place at Sterling College after a program best at OKWU.

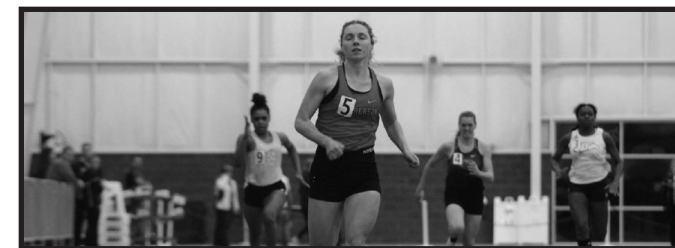
Photo from McPherson College Spirit Squads Facebook.



The McPherson College baseball team puts up "rocket ships" for good luck.

Photo by Tyler Dunn.

## INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD



Senior Amy Braimbridge competes at NWSU Open  
Photo By Maya Rawlinson.

By Tyler Dunn

The season is starting off strong for the McPherson College indoor track squad. Jr. Ilanna spoke highly of her teammates stating: "It's exciting to cheer on my teammates while they compete to get personal bests and qualify for nationals. Watching all the talent that our team has, is just different; the indoor track complex comes alive." There is an energy that radiates from everyone when they're competing in their events.

To compete in the indoor season means to be fluid and to be ready to adjust to conditions different from that of the outdoor season. For example, the indoor track times are based off of a 200 meter track; when the runners compete on a 300 track the times have to be converted, with added time, due to the change in the curves and straights before knowing if they're times qualify for nationals. Due to limited throwing areas, indoor events consist of shot put and weight throw. Weight throw substitutes the hammer throw

by making it a shorter and much heavier implement, while the discus and javelin athletes have to wait for outdoor season to arrive.

Multiple athletes on the team have already had noticeable seasons. After the first indoor meet in December, Amy Braimbridge and Moneshya Green were the KCAC coach's poll women's track and field athletes of the week. On the men's side, Dylan Templeman claimed the fielder of the week. Since the opening week, Templeman and Braimbridge have both been recognized a second time and Treveon Collins has been recognized as well. Athletes that have qualified for nationals held in South Dakota include Cullen Grabast, Treveon Collins, Amari Heisser, Xavier Taylor, Ami Braimbridge, Moneshya Green and the Men's 4X400 team. The men's qualified team consists of the four main runners and an alternate: Cullen Grabast, Treveon Collins, Amari Heisser, Xavier Taylor, and Zach Ramay.





# SPORTS

## DJOKOVIC WINS AUSTRALIAN OPEN HIS EIGHTH CAREER WIN AT THIS COMPETITION

By Marcus Fernandes

This past Sunday, Novak Djokovic showed the world that if Rafael Nadal is Roland Garros' king, he is the one who set the tone in the Australia Open. The Serbian overcame the Austrian Dominic Thiem's aggressiveness, who at some point was leading the game by 2-1 in sets, and an argument with the sideline referee to win his 17th grand Slam Title in his career. Even

facing some adversities, in the match, for many moments, below his highest technical and mental level, Djokovic was able to incredibly comeback against Dominic Thiem by winning for 3-2 in sets. (6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4). The four-hour battle was rewarding for Djokovic as he recovered his first place in the ATP Ranking, and got closer to Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer in the number of Grand Slams titles.

That was the eighth time Novak Djokovic reached the Australian Open finals in his career. He has never lost a single game, and just in one occasion, back in 2012, he needed five sets to beat an opponent. Nole also congratulated Dominic Thiem for his performance during the match, by stating that the Austrian was really close to win the tournament. Moreover, the current number one player in the world

addressed his post-match speech to what he called devastating events in 2020. He approached the fires in Australia, and the tragic accident involving Kobe Bryant, who was his personal friend and a mentor, to leave a message, "it is important to stay close to people we love such as friends and family. There are much important things in life besides the sport".

## CHIEFS WIN SUPER BOWL AFTER STRUGGLE

By Jonah Shabry

The 49er's defense was top-five in every major statistical category this season, completely dominating the NFC West. They also were regarded as the best team in the NFC throughout the entire season. To go along with an elite running game, and a quarterback that is very effective, Jimmy Garoppolo. The 49ers were 13-3 in the regular season, and were three plays away from a perfect 16-0 regular season. They got the number one seed in the NFC, and a bye in the first round of playoffs. The 49ers were no surprise to be playing in the biggest game the sport has to offer, Super Bowl LIV.

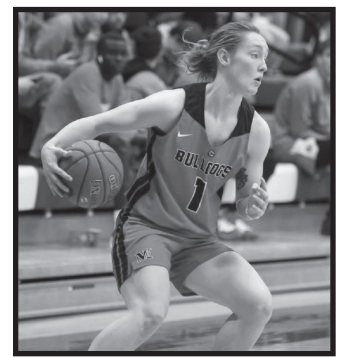
The Kansas City Chiefs went 12-4 in the AFC West, while receiving the second seed in the AFC. The Chiefs sported the NFL's most explosive offense, behind the young star of Patrick Mahomes and an explosive group of skilled players. With Patrick Mahomes paired with Andy Reid calling plays, Kansas City can score at will. The defense was a bend-but-don't-break style. They struggled early in the season, but really grew and improved week-in and week-out. Behind huge free agent signing of Tyrann Mathieu and Frank Clark, the defense took a step to an elite level.

Super Bowl LIV was won by the Kansas City Chiefs by the final score of 31-20. The Chiefs overcame a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter. The Chiefs trailed by double digits in all three postseason games. Star quarterback, Patrick Mahomes started slow and was having the worst game of his young career, but he turned his game on in the

fourth quarter, bringing the Chiefs back and leading them to their first super bowl in 50 years. The legend of Andy Reid and the elusive super bowl ring he has been chasing for so long, has finally come to an end. The Chiefs were truly a team of destiny and refused to be denied.



## BULLDOG BASKETBALL



Seniors Dorian Paige and Danielle Holt in Competition.  
Photos By Micah Gilbert.

## MEN AND WOMEN'S TEAMS WORKING HARD

By Tyler Dunn

Basketball season is in full swing for both the Men's and Women's basketball teams at McPherson College. Each team worked hard in the fall to make the strides needed for the coming season. This season is in the making of something special, and it has students and faculty alike proud to support Bulldog Basketball.

Bulldog basketball alumni and now faculty member, Justin Wiltfong, stated that "It's honestly awesome because they're so good! I just wish I could've experienced playing for Coach E!" This is an opinion shared by many alumni. Wiltfong quoted Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and said, "What separates the good players from a great player is that a great player is willing to give up their own personal achievement for the achievement

of the group." Using it to illustrate how both teams play, for each other instead of for themselves.

Regardless of who's on the court, for either team they support one another and the way the teams are playing have garnered the support of the Bulldog community as a whole. Junior Tyler Carrasco, transfer baseball player, has been in attendance for a few of this season's women's games. He stated that "It's nice time see a team do what they do. They constantly support each other, doesn't matter the score. They don't give up." That is something all teams can pick up on and respect.

The Bulldog Basketball teams will be back in action on February 15th in Salina facing off against Kansas Wesleyan University at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

# VIEWPOINTS

## CARS ON THE CORNER



### WITH MASON DUFFEY

Most car guys will agree that the friends and memories you make with car friends is the best part about the car community. This is true for student Dante Delacross who said that the friends and memories he's made with his 1976 Chevrolet Camaro have been one of the best parts about owning it. He bought the car his freshman year in Colorado and has been turning wrenches on it and driving it ever since.

When Delacross acquired the car, it featured

the original 350 cubic inch V-8 engine and 4 speed transmission. In order to get more horsepower, he installed a new carburetor, intake and exhaust. He also had to replace the transmission twice. His favorite modification though, is the American flag he painted on the hood, stating that it was his own idea and done entirely by him.

On top of modifying the car, he has spent a lot of time driving what he calls "the most fun car I've ever driven." But he doesn't just like driving it by him-

self, he enjoys taking other for rides and seeing their reactions to the car as they cruise around. He mentioned that his favorite memory of the car was at the McPherson College cruise-in on Main Street in 2019, when he and all of his friends were at a red light, with their car's exhaust playing the music of gearheads and looking around at everyone. He told me at the time he thought to himself that this was what it's all about, having fun with cars and your friends.



## LEGENDS ARE FOREVER: KOBE

By Taylor Perez

How do you say goodbye to a childhood hero, an idol, an inspiration? On January 26, 2020, millions of basketball fans were shocked by the news of Kobe Bryant's tragic death. Kobe, along-side his 13-year-old daughter Gianna 'Gigi,' and seven others, died in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, Calif. Foggy weather forced the pilot, Ara Zobayan, to take an alternate route to the Mamba Sports Acad-

emy in Thousand Oaks, Calif., which resulted in a fatal collision. While fans mourn the loss of a true Lakers legend, the families of those involved in the crash mourn the loss of their loved ones.

It was obvious that Kobe Bryant was a very dominant competitor on the court, but off of the court, Kobe was a dedicated and loving father to his daughters. To his wife Vanessa he provided love and support through tough times, and offered to pick up their

daughters from school whenever he could. Not only did he want to be the best athlete he could be, but he wanted to be the best father and husband as well.

Kobe was much more than an athlete of an indescribable caliber. Kobe was a husband, a father, a son and a brother. Kobe was known as the "Black Mamba," and he taught athletes of all ages how to become the best in their sport. He instilled the "Mamba Mentality" in athletes, in-

cluding his own daughter Gianna. Kobe was much more than just basketball, which is why he will continue to live through other players. You can see Kobe in Trae Young's drive and ambition and in LeBron James' leadership. Legends are not created by mistake. Legends are created from hard work, dedication, mental toughness, blood, sweat and tears.

While fans have said their goodbyes to Kobe by creating a memorial outside the Staples Center in



Los Angeles, they will never have to say goodbye to his legacy. Kobe once said, "Heroes come and go, but

legends are forever," and Kobe's legacy is forever.