CARDINAL FLYER

Hayes Center High School Journalism Thursday, November 12, 2026

CHAOS ON STAGE

BY CARLY SOFTLEY

The curtain rises and almost immediately the chaos begins. Bickering and snarky comments can be heard among the characters as the main character, Bailey Cox, is seen running around the scene. Soon, the sharp blow of Bailey's whistle freezes the other characters in place.

This is just the beginning of the play, "The Night before the Night before Christmas", performed by the Hayes Center one-act cast. As the play begins to unfold, city council members including Alex Whitfield (Carly Softley), Jessie Sawyer (Hayley Richards), Elivira Wheeler (Ava Messersmith), Hannah Jordan (Bristol Cox), Cameron Logan (Lanie Soundy), Hellen Owens (Kaylee Stewart), Beth Mason (Mikaella Peligrino), and Cassandra Casey (Izzy Messinger) try to overcome their differences to put together a scene for the local Christmas show with their new director Bailey Cox (Harli Cox). The play also features appearances from Santa (Cyrus Rodriguez) and his elf (June Messersmith), who help bring the play to life. While some characters are laid back and easy going, others tend to make the situation worse. As the production goes on, the audience wonders if the city council will ever be able to agree on anything or if they'll even be able to come up with a scene for the Christmas show at all.

The cast, including stage hands Briana Vapenik and Aaron Lawson, has already performed in front of the school in a production done on Thursday, November 5th. When asked about her perspective of the performance Harli Cox stated, "What I enjoy most about our play is how well each person fits into their character and how each character fits their personality. I think our performance feels so put together because of the creativity and the traits each cast member brings."



Photo by Brent Sankey

Members of the one-act cast freeze on stage during the school performance on Thursday, November 5th.

The person responsible for casting the actors into their roles is Andrea Neal, the director and teacher of the one-act class. Miss Neal hopes to see the students really step into the roles that they are playing on stage. "The hope would be that students find their footing on the stage and develop an interest in coming back from year to year and encouraging new members to join," Miss Neal said. Upcoming performances include the RPAC performance on Thursday, November 12th in Holdredge and the district competition on Monday, November 30th in Layton. The one-act cast will also be presenting this exciting drama in front of the community on Sunday, November 15th. We hope to see you there!



Photo by Brent Sankey

Actor Harli Cox gives a speech on stage while other actors look on during the one-act's school performance on November 5th.



Photo by Harli Cox

Sophomores Hayley Richards and Bristol Cox rehearse a scene in their one-act performance.



Photo by Lanie Soundy

Gael Castellanos Cruz hands a flower to Mrs. Soundy while students sing during a surprise assembly for Principal appreciation month.



Photo by Harli Cox

Kaylee Stewart and Izzy Messinger cover a book used as a prop during their one-act performance.

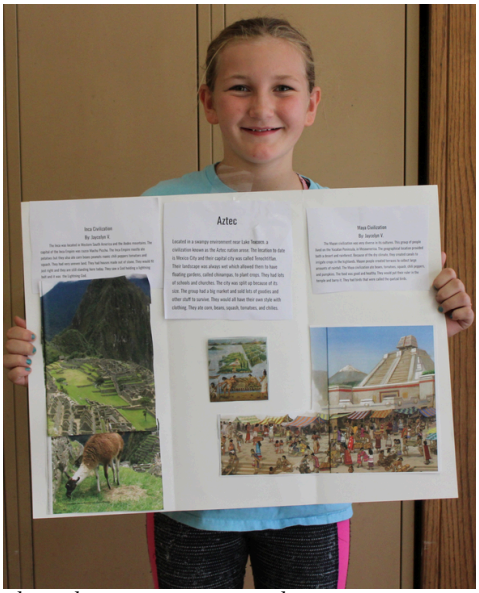


Photo by Ava Messersmith

5th grader Jaycelyn Vapenik displays her Aztec, Inca, and Maya Civilizations poster that she created in history class



Photo by Ava Messersmith

Juniors Agneshka Sankey and Colton Koetter present their gated community landscape and design project in their plant science class.