



# THE DAILY NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE HIGH PLAINS

Friday

November 17, 2006

Hays, Kansas 50¢



FRED HUNT / Hays Daily News

Marilyn Saltzman, who served as a communication specialist during the Columbine tragedy, talks to the audience during her a seminar Thursday afternoon at Fort Hays State University.

## Speaker says preparation is key

By MICAH MERTES  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

Marilyn Saltzman is a veteran of tragedy. She managed media relations during the Columbine school shooting in 1999 and currently is a communication consultant with the Platte Canyon School District in Bailey, Colo., where a student was killed by an intruder in September.

On Thursday at Fort Hays State University, to a group of about 100 teachers, students, police officers and public-relations

consultants, Saltzman spoke of the two great tragedies of her life and what she's learned from them — and what everyone else can learn. "It can happen anywhere," Saltzman said of school shootings. "There's no rhyme or reason to it. I can't figure it out. The best you can do is prepare as many resources as possible."



Saltzman

In her afternoon workshop, "Managing the Unthinkable: Crisis Response in School Shootings," Saltzman told of her experiences, at both Columbine and Bailey, and detailed some of her hard-won wisdom. She spoke of the vital components that must be in place in preparation for such a crisis. Later in the evening, she elaborated on the workshop with a speech titled, "School Violence: Lessons Learned."

SEE PREPARATION, PAGE A8

## STUDENTS DO WATER WORK

FHSU, O'Loughlin join forces for learning event

By KALEY LYON  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

Test tubes, rubber gloves, pH detector strips, tweezers and GPS units typically are not found in the hands of 9- and 10-year-olds.

Thursday afternoon, however, fourth- and fifth-graders from O'Loughlin Elementary School's Kids After School program were equipped with such tools as they performed water-quality experiments with Fort Hays State University students.

"I know I'm small, but I can do this," said fourth-grader Lexi Summers as she trudged through weeds on the banks of Big Creek that were almost as tall as she was.

The 10 elementary students were divided into three groups, each led by an FHSU student. The groups collected a water sample from Big Creek, then performed a series of experiments to determine the quality of the sample.

The students tested the water's turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, percent saturation, pH, and concentration of nitrates, nitrites and phosphate.

Different stations containing the necessary equipment were spread across campus. Students followed Global Positioning System units, handheld digital navigational devices, to get from one station to another.

"They've heard of GPS systems before but didn't know

how they work," said Kristen Theis, a KAS supervisor. "They love hands-on experience, so they were pretty excited."

The FHSU students are in Jean Gleichsner's soils class. Thursday's experiments were the second round of water-quality testing these students have done.

A grant of about \$2,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency gave the 17 students funding for a larger-scale experiment — the students collected many water samples from western Kansas and performed the same series of testing performed Thursday.

The students presented their research during a Nov. 10 Times Talk, and also had the option of sharing the experiments with area children.

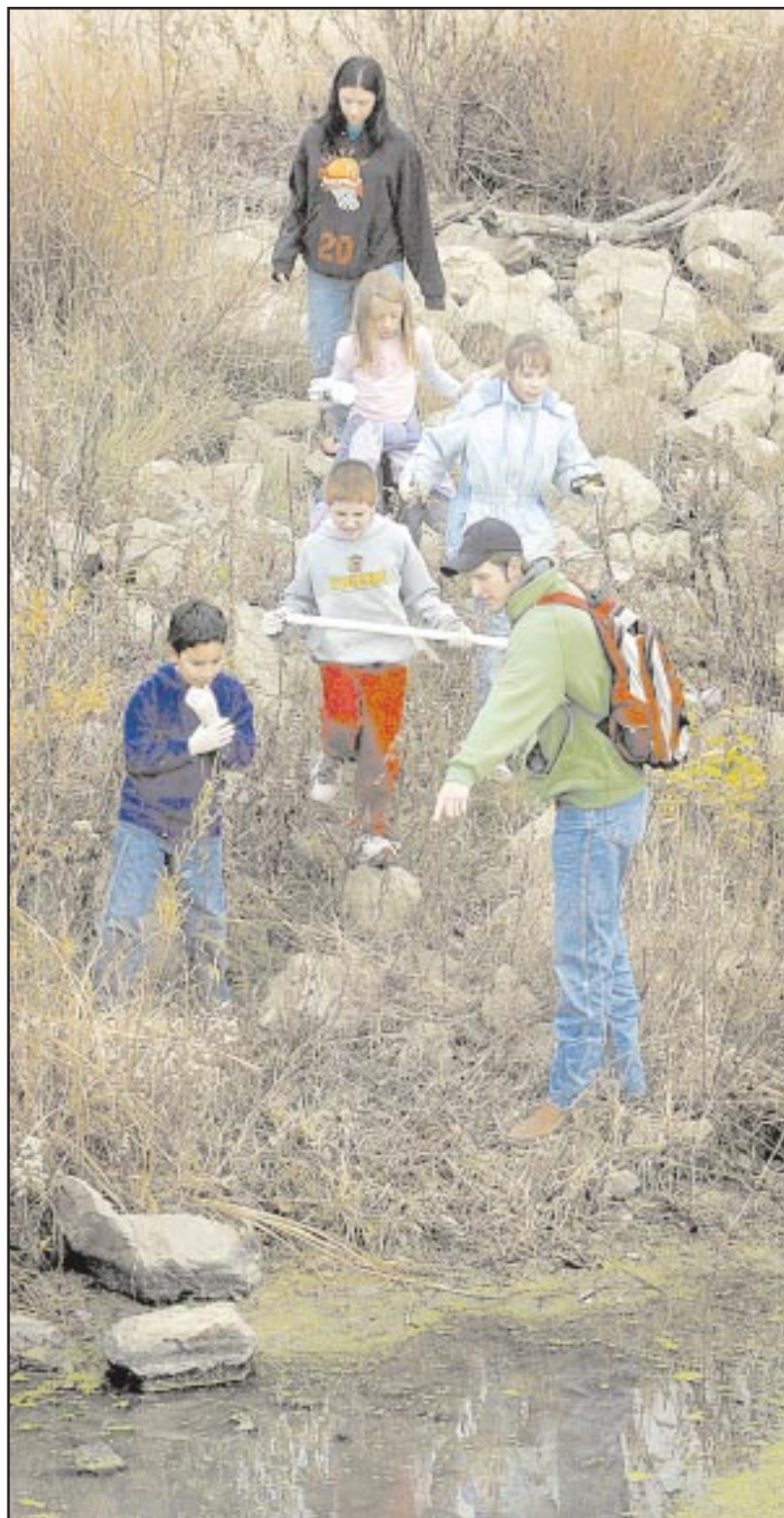
The KAS group was the first group of children to have this experience, but more events are scheduled, said Gleichsner, associate professor of agriculture.

"We wanted to make it fun for the school children and at the same time educational," Gleichsner said. "We're just trying to make them appreciate that what they do can have an impact on the water they drink."

Daniel Hertle, a fourth-grade O'Loughlin student, said he will think twice before tossing garbage outside.

"I learned that pollution is bad for fish and wildlife," Hertle said.

Reporter Kaley Lyon can be reached at 628-1081, Ext. 138, or by e-mail at [klyon@dailynews.net](mailto:klyon@dailynews.net).



FRED HUNT / Hays Daily News

Fort Hays State University agronomy major Trevor Shaw, a junior, right, leads O'Loughlin Elementary fourth-graders while drawing water samples for a turbidity test Thursday afternoon east of Gross Memorial Coliseum.

## Recount takes new turn

Sheridan County commission race has new leader; chairman skeptical

By WILL MANLY  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

HOXIE — After a hand recount of ballots in a Sheridan County Commission race, the county clerk's office is convinced that electronic counting machines did not work properly.

And after the recount yielded a different winner, another county official is not convinced that the recount was fair.

The second count has challenger Vic Bielser ahead of incumbent Ron Schamberger, 227 to 220. If it stands, that count overturns the election night count, which had Schamberger ahead, 220 to 214. Sheridan County Clerk Paula Bielser — Vic Bielser's wife — said some of the ballots rejected by the ES&S counting machines appeared to be valid.

SEE RECOUNT, PAGE A8

## Commissioners seek tuneup on ACCESS

By KAREN MIKOLS  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

Transportation drove discussion at Thursday night's Hays City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Henry Schwaller IV asked a barrage of questions to ACCESS Transportation Director Ron Straight as about a half-dozen ACCESS employees watched in stony silence.

"There are complaints that riders request a vehicle for a wheelchair but get one that did not accommodate the chair," Schwaller said.

SEE CITY, PAGE A8

## Playstation 3 release might line buyers pockets



Baskerville



Gilpin

By MICAH MERTES  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

Fort Hays State University student Austin Baskerville and his girlfriend, Alli Gilpin, walked out of Wal-Mart oh-so-early this frigid, crusty morning — at 12:06 a.m. to be exact — with a brand new, 20-gi-

gabyte Playstation 3, produced by Sony.

And Baskerville didn't shell out \$537 (tax included) in the name of Madden football or Lara Croft. He's no die-hard gamer, just an entrepreneur.

"This'll make me some money," he said.

LINES LONG FOR PS3 RELEASE  
Page B4.

Perhaps more money than he anticipated. Sony initially planned to ship 2 million units for a global launch but, due to system glitches, recent-

ly reduced its launch volume to 500,000 (400,000 units for the U.S.). Analysts are speculating that only 150,000 to 200,000 units might have reached the U.S. today so far. Later this morning, Baskerville posted his purchase on eBay.

SEE PS3, PAGE A8



### IN THE NEWS

#### Key lawmaker: Proposal on sex offenders a bad deal

TOPEKA (AP) — Proposals for keeping sex offenders from living close to schools or day care centers might appear attractive politically, but they won't protect children, a key legislator said Thursday.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman John Vratil's assessment came a day after Iowa officials warned Kansas legislators against passing such restrictions, saying they actually put communities at greater risk.

Vratil, R-Leawood, and other members of a committee studying judiciary issues this sum-

mer and fall had a hearing Wednesday on whether the state should prevent sex offenders from living within a certain distance — such as 1,000 feet or 1,500 feet — of schools and day care centers. The study committee took no action.

The idea enjoyed some support early during the Legislature's 2006 session, but backing waned amid questions about whether it would have unintended consequences. Legislators eventually told cities and counties they couldn't impose such restrictions and decided to study the topic.

### LIGHTER SIDE

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Panbanisha the bonobo is up to her tricks again.

For the second time in as many months, the ape triggered a fire alarm at the Great Ape Trust of Iowa research center.

The trouble started Wednesday morning, when Panbanisha wanted to go outside but the staff was too busy to let her out, trust officials said. Panbanisha then apparently lost her temper and pulled the alarm, officials said.

It's a trick Panbanisha initially learned in October when she saw a welder start the alarm. It took her less than a day to learn how to duplicate the excitement.

When the alarm sounded the next morning, "I went to check on Pan, and she was sitting there next to it with a smile on her face," lead scientist Sue Savage-Rumbaugh said last month.

### COMING SUNDAY



Learning how to cook a turkey dinner is fun at a cooking class in Gorham.

SEE SUNDAY'S NOR WESTER

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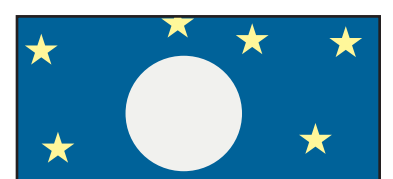


### OUTSIDE

#### LOCAL FORECAST

Tonight, mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the mid-20s. North winds around 10 mph.

Expanded weather, page B8.



3 sections, 38 pages

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THE DAILY NEWS sales

KAREN PURVIS,  
HAYS

## People in the News

### Fergie wants to dance

NEW YORK (AP) — Actors and athletes have busted some amazing moves on "Dancing with the Stars," including its new champion, football great Emmitt Smith. Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, is hoping the show will make room for a royal. "I'd quite like to go on 'Dancing with the Stars,'" Ferguson tells "Inside Edition" in an interview that aired Thursday. "I'd like them to teach me the tango." Ferguson, 47, says she was turned on to the romantic dance during a visit to Buenos Aires, Argentina. "I did go to the oldest tango place and I did look at it and think 'I can try this,'" she said.



Ferguson

### Houston's house sold

ATLANTA (AP) — Whitney Houston no longer has the suburban Atlanta home she shared with Bobby Brown, according to a published report. The five-bedroom Alpharetta home went into foreclosure this fall and was sold on the steps of the Fulton County Courthouse earlier this month, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Thursday.



Houston

Meanwhile, Houston's New Jersey mansion is slated to be sold at a sheriff's sale Jan. 4 because she is more than \$1 million behind on the mortgage and taxes have not been paid this year, the Daily Record of Parsippany reported.



Holmes, Cruise and Suri

### Italian mayor meets couple

ROME (AP) — Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes likely will wed Saturday in a Scientology ceremony held at a 15th-century Italian castle in a lakeside town near Rome, the town's mayor said Thursday.

The wedding party, along with guests, are then expected to attend a banquet the same day in Rome, Bracciano Mayor Patrizia Riccioni said.

For weeks, rumors have focused on Odescalchi Castle in Bracciano as the likely venue for the celebrity wedding. Riccioni told a news conference Thursday she had met the couple the day before somewhere outside of her town, but she would not say where.

She was coy about other details, saying only that she expected the couple to arrive Saturday morning at the castle for what she believed would be a Scientology wedding ceremony, followed by a banquet.

## Spiderman?



Speed climber Hans Florine, three-time X-Games gold medal winner, climbs a window Thursday in a four-story-high atrium in Chicago during a performance with the Oakland, Calif.-based Project Bandaloop aerial dancers.

NAM Y. HUH / Associated Press

## Calendar

### Today

■ **PLAINVILLE** — Plainville High School play "Black Hearts and Bearded Ladies," 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Admission is \$3 for high school students and adults, and \$1 for grade school and junior high students.

■ If you can't walk a straight line, dial a straight line. If you've been drinking tonight, call Safe Ride at 621-2580 to get home safely. Service operates in Hays from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

### Saturday

■ The Children's Holiday Memorial Tree decorating ceremony, 10 a.m. at The Furniture Look, 1000 Main. Sponsored by the Center for Life Experiences

and Healing Hearts Family Support Group.

■ The public is invited to the Hays Area Children's Center Christmas Tree Lane and Auction, Smoky Hill Country Club, 3303 Hall. The silent auction begins at 6 p.m., the live auction at 7 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door for \$30. A buffet meal and complimentary champagne will be served. For more information, contact Kathryn Mayes at (785) 625-3257, or [kathryn@hacc.info](mailto:kathryn@hacc.info), or visit [www.hacc.info](http://www.hacc.info).

■ **PLAINVILLE** — Plainville High School will present the play "Black Hearts and Bearded Ladies" by Ray Sheers at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Admission is \$3 for high school students and adults, and \$1 for grade school and junior high.

■ **OBERLIN** — Ronnie Kola,

world-renowned pianist, will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Gateway Theater. This is an Oberlin Arts and Humanities season ticket event, or purchase tickets at the door at \$10 adults and \$5 students grades one to 12. For more information, contact Ella Betts at (785) 475-3557 or Mary Hanzel at (785) 475-3329.

■ **ELLIS** — Holiday open house and craft fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Mary Elementary School gym, Sixth and Monroe. There will be a bake sale and lunch served. Everyone is welcome.

■ **O'LOUGHLIN** PTA fun night from 6 to 8 p.m. at O'Loughlin Elementary School, 1401 Hall. There will be food, prizes, games. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Everyone is welcome.

Send information to Calendar, Hays Daily News, 507 Main, Hays, KS 67601.

## Community Bulletin Board

The Ellis County Historical Society is preparing for the holidays with two events for the public next month.

The 12th annual Christmas Open House will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 1 and 2 at the Ellis County Historical Museum at Seventh and Main.

This free event for the whole family will feature a display of toys from the 1870s to 1980s in the stone church. There also will be new exhibits in the main gallery. Horse and hayrack rides will

travel down a the streets of downtown Hays every half-hour. Free tickets will be available in the saloon. There will be crafts available for the kids to make in the learning center, while musicians will provide music. Refreshments will be available. The museum store will be open for Christmas shopping.

The Historical Holiday Experience bus tour is set for Dec. 10.

The tour will visit places in Ellis and Russell counties and discuss the history of the area.

Stops will include Cathedral of the Plains, Victoria; Walker Army Air Base; Carrie Oswald No. 1 Oil Well; Fairport, an oil boomtown; Blue Hill School; the Emmeram Catholic Church ruins; and St. Catherine Catholic Church. There will be a barbecue dinner at Dickinson Ranch.

The tour will be from 2:30 to 8 p.m., leaving from the museum.

The cost is \$30 per person, and tickets must be purchased by Dec. 1 at the museum.

## Turkey vultures find favorable stop in Hays

Q: What were all those buzzards doing around here a while back? — A note found on my desk.

A: You mean the rather large flock of turkey vultures about town this fall? A buzzard is actually a kind of hawk, not a vulture, and I probably should have looked into why this is such a common misnomer and how it started, but I didn't.

After some digging, I found out that turkey vultures are highly migratory birds. The same birds we had here are very likely to end up somewhere in Central America and quite possibly South America.

Greg Farley of the Fort Hays State University biology department added that the turkey vulture migrates in stages, often gathering in particularly favorable areas.

The Lincoln Draw/Van Doren's pond area is favorable



Eric Norris

### ASK ERIC

for the water source, large roosting trees and plenty of road-kill around the area.

According to Farley, unlike the popular image of vultures, this kind of vulture doesn't rely on large game carrion as a food source. They subsist on the likes of mice, rabbits and frogs and other unlucky critters that don't make it across the fabled road.

Eric Norris is the adult department librarian at the Hays Public Library. "Ask Eric" questions can be mailed to 1205 Main, Hays, KS, 67601, or submitted through [www.hayspublib.org](http://www.hayspublib.org) at the "Ask Eric" link.

## Public Record

### Hays Police Department activity log

**Thursday**  
Four animal calls  
22 traffic stops  
Accident, city street/alley, Eighth and Riley  
Accident, city street/alley, 11th and Oak  
Accident, city street/alley, 800 block Elm  
Motor vehicle accident, hit and run, Fourth and Ash  
Burglary/vehicle, 200 block West 10th.  
Burglary/vehicle 300 block West 38th  
Child in need of care, 2600 block East Seventh  
Disturbance, noise, 200 block

### West 10th.

Disperse crowd, 500 block West Seventh.  
Driving while suspended/revoled, 900 block Ash  
Forgery, 100 block West 12th  
Creating a hazard, 13th Vine  
Juvenile complaint, 1300 block Fort  
Suspicious activity, 1100 block Vine  
Suspicious activity, 1300 block Donald Drive

### Ellis County Sheriff's Office activity log

**Thursday**  
Drug offenses, 1200 block Fort  
Warrant service, 1100 block Fairgrounds Road

## On Campus

### Today

■ International Education Week 2006.  
■ Fleharty Fellowship presentation, 3:30 p.m., Albertson Hall 169.

### Saturday

■ Heartland Parishes Christian concert, 7 p.m., Beach/Schmidt.

### Monday

■ Fall break/Thanksgiving vacation begins.

## Lotteries

### Daily Pick 3

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**FOX BOX**

**Upcoming Activities 11-18 to 11-25**

Sat., Nov. 18	College Football Day! KU vs. K-State - 2:30pm Hamburgers & Brats Prime Rib & Dance 7pm Call for reservations
Sun., Nov. 19	Sunday Football Party - Opens at noon Chili & Cinnamon Rolls
Mon., Nov. 20	Monday Night Football - Opens at 5pm Footlong Chili Dogs
Tues., Nov. 21	KU Basketball - 7pm Bierocks & Green Bean Soup
Wed., Nov. 22	Movie - "Sherlock Holmes & The Secret Weapon" 7pm - BBQ Chicken Sandwiches & Chips
Thurs., Nov. 23	Open Thanksgiving - 6pm Chiefs vs Broncos Chili & Bread Sticks
Fri., Nov. 24	Open Bar - Check out our holiday drink specials Opens at 6pm
Sat., Nov. 25	Closed to public, wedding reception

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**MOVIE SHOWTIMES**  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOV. 17 & 18, 2006

<b>*Casino Royale</b> (PG-13) FRI. 4:00 7:00 10:00 SAT. 12:30 4:00 7:00 10:00	<b>Flushed Away</b> (PG) FRI. 4:40 7:20 9:25 SAT. 1:40 4:40 7:20 9:25	<b>A Good Year</b> (PG-13) FRI. 4:10 7:10 9:50 SAT. 1:30 4:10 7:10 9:50	<b>Borat</b> (R) FRI. 4:05 7:00 9:30 SAT. 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:30
<b>Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause</b> (G) FRI. 4:25 7:15 9:40 SAT. 1:00 4:25 7:15 9:40	<b>Happy Feet</b> (PG) FRI. 4:15 7:15 9:40 SAT. 1:00 4:15 7:15 9:40	<b>The Return</b> (PG-13) FRI. 4:15 7:30 9:55 SAT. 1:20 4:15 7:30 9:55	<b>Stranger than Fiction</b> (PG-13) FRI. 4:30 7:05 9:45 SAT. 1:15 4:30 7:05 9:45

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## Hays schools not likely overcounting at-risk children

By **DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN**  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

A state audit earlier this week showed that school districts in Kansas are receiving millions of dollars in state aid that they shouldn't be receiving because of overcounting at-risk children.

The Hays school district most likely isn't one of them, say officials in Hays USD 489.

Since 1992, the state has said every student who is eligible under federal law to receive a free school lunch is considered at risk of failing.

The state audit said that 29 percent of the state's students in kindergarten through 12th grade, or about 135,000, are considered at-risk. Districts receive extra money per student — \$822 for last year and rising to \$2,021 by 2008-09.

To qualify for free or reduced lunches, families must meet certain parameters

that are determined by family size and income.

For example, a family of four with an annual gross income of \$37,000 is eligible for reduced lunches, which last year ranged from 22 to 25 percent of the full price. The same-size family that makes an annual income of \$26,000 is eligible for free lunches.

Families are required to fill out paperwork listing their family size and gross income. Districts have several options on how to check for verification of those numbers.

The Hays district uses the error-prone verification option, checking applications that are close to the top of the qualifications.

Richard Cain, assistant superintendent in charge of finance for USD 489, said that Hays is below average in how many qualify for free or reduced lunches. In fact, he said there are a lot of fam-

ilies that could qualify but don't take advantage of the service.

"We probably have as many that don't even apply who could," Cain said.

He said that there are various reasons why people don't apply, ranging from something as simple as not wishing to fill out the paperwork to worrying about the stigma that could be associated with the term "free lunch."

That, however, should not be an issue, said Shiela Brenning, director of nutritional services for the Hays district.

"There are people who don't apply, and we know the family would qualify," Brenning said. "If we ask, the response is 'What will people think?'"

That, however, shouldn't be a consideration, she said.

"No one knows," Brenning said. "I know, and maybe the secretary at the school. Otherwise, no one else knows who has full-paid lunches or free or reduced."

Full prices of lunches a year ago for students were \$1.80 at the high school level, \$1.70 for middle schoolers and \$1.60 at elementary schools. Students at all schools paid \$1 for breakfasts.

Last year, 1,845 students in the Hays district paid the full price for breakfasts and/or lunches, with 311 getting the reduced price of 40 cents.

That calculates out to about 33 percent for free and reduced lunches for USD 489.

By contrast, Dodge City and Hutchinson each had about 70 percent as free and reduced, Garden City was at 65 percent, Great Bend 57 percent, and Salina nearly 47 percent.

Other options for checking verification are checking 3 percent of the applications at random or checking 100 percent of the applications.

Brenning thinks neither of those are good options.

"If it's at random, well you know how 'at random' goes," Brenning said, explaining that a lot of those selections could end up being at the very low end of incomes, or vice versa, and not give an accurate sampling.

"And," she added, "if you opt to check 100 percent, you have to do 100 percent. You can't get halfway through, be overwhelmed with all the calls and paperwork and decide not to go on."

Brenning said she is comfortable with the method of how the district checks verification of at-risk students, giving her and her staff adequate time to still get their jobs done.

"Our whole job is to feed kids," she said, "not to be the police of food service."

Reporter Diane Gasper-O'Brien can be reached at (785) 628-1081, Ext. 126, or by e-mail at [dbrien@dailynews.net](mailto:dbrien@dailynews.net).

## Court rules Colby doctor cannot see patients

District court let Hildyard practice while awaiting license appeal decision

By **PHYLLIS J. ZORN**  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

COLBY — An embattled Colby physician has had a reversal of fortune thanks to the Kansas Supreme Court.

Family physician Dr. Victor Hildyard, whose license was revoked by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts in August, will not be allowed to practice medicine while his appeal of the board's decision is decided in Thomas County District Court.

Hildyard has practiced in Colby for 30 years. The board's initial petition in regard to Hildyard, based on complaints from patients and agency investigation, was filed in August 2004 and contained 12 counts, including both competency and professional behavior issues. An amended petition, filed in February 2005, is 19 counts long.

A nine-day administrative hearing was conducted in October 2005. Hearing officer Edward Gaschler rendered his ruling in January. The board read the ruling during its April meeting and decided to review transcripts of the testimony from the hearing.

The Supreme Court's decision is a turn of the tide from the district court's earlier ruling that Hildyard could continue to see patients until a decision is reached whether to uphold or overturn the board's revocation of Hildyard's license.

"That stay that was in effect is no longer in effect," said Mark Stafford, general counsel for the Board of Healing Arts.

District Judge Jack Burr is scheduled to hear arguments on the board's revocation of Hildyard's license on Nov. 28. In August, Burr gave Hildyard permission to keep working until the matter is decided, but in October, the board answered Burr's ruling with an appeal to the Kansas Supreme Court to overrule Burr's decision.

That Supreme Court ruling, directing Burr to vacate his earlier order giving Hildyard permission to keep seeing patients, was signed by Chief Justice Kay McFarland on Nov. 9. On Monday, Burr issued a new order vacating his earlier decision.

Stafford said the Board of Healing Arts got their copy of McFarland's order on Monday.

"He cannot practice now — that's the short form," Stafford said.

Stafford said that other practitioners in Hildyard's clinic can continue to see patients, but Hildyard cannot.

Stafford said Hildyard's attorney filed another motion Wednesday trying to get an order that Hildyard could continue to practice.

Stafford earlier said that a revocation is presumed to last at least three years. The person can apply for reinstatement after that time. The board could decide to reinstate sooner if the physician shows themselves rehabilitated, Stafford said.

Reporter Phyllis Zorn can be reached at (785) 628-1081, Ext. 137, or by e-mail at [phylyz@dailynews.net](mailto:phylyz@dailynews.net).



COURTESY PHOTO

Firefighters spray water Thursday on the remains of the Hartzler Store in Alton.

## Fire destroys 60-year-old Alton store

By **STACIE R. SANDALL**  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

ALTON — After 60 years of business, one of the final downtown businesses in Alton has burned to the ground.

Alton, Woodston, Stockton and Osborne fire units were dispatched to Hartzler Store after a call came in at just before 6 a.m. Thursday.

Eldon Hartzler and his wife, Mary, are the second generation of Hartzlers to own the store. Hartzler is also the local fire chief.

When the fire units arrived, the building was already engulfed in flames.

The flames were knocked down by about 11 a.m., but the building burned to the ground.

"The keepsakes are probably the biggest loss," Hartzler said, mentioning an antique hand-crank cash register, his father's roll-

top desk, antique glass shelves and others.

"You think, man, can we get in and get one of those keepsakes? But I decided right away nobody's life is more valuable than any of them," Hartzler said. "You just keep the team safe and not try heroics for the wrong reasons."

A few pieces of equipment were saved from the back of the building.

Hartzler said he feels fortunate that no one was hurt in the blaze.

Part of the store was constructed of stone in the 1880s, which is where the fire originated. The cause is listed as unknown for the time being.

Hartzler's father, Wayne, began the business in 1946 with his two brothers, Harold and Wilbur.

Eldon Hartzler began working for his father in 1975.

"I started for him and liked it and took

over for him," he said.

He purchased the business from his father in 1982 and runs it with his wife, Mary.

Alton resident Deanna Roach said the store always had everything the community needed, including items that were hard to come by at other places.

"This store was important in everybody's life," Roach said. "It's a huge loss to the community. They really made a difference in Alton for 60 years."

Hartzler said he will continue with the business, as it also installs heating and air conditioning, provides back hoe services and installs pipeline.

Plans are already in the works to construct a scaled-down building in the next year to continue the business.

Reporter Stacie R. Sandall can be reached at (785) 628-1081, ext. 136, or by e-mail at [ssandall@dailynews.net](mailto:ssandall@dailynews.net).

## FHSU's Model U.N. exposes area high school students to world issues

By **MICAH MERTES**  
HAYS DAILY NEWS

Accompanied by the grind and ding of nearby construction, Bret Higgins, Salina South High School junior and North Korea delegate, disputed that his country could peacefully maintain its stockpile of nuclear weapons.

"You might have heard in the media that we're evil and want to control everyone," Higgins said. He contested that such was not the case.

Later, Higgins would have to argue that his country did not commit a smallpox epidemic outbreak against Germany.

Welcome to the Model United Nations.

About a dozen high schools throughout Kansas represented 51 delegations at Fort Hays State University's annual High School Model U.N. on Thursday in the under-construction Memorial Union.

More than 180 students participated, about 60 more than event

officials anticipated. Hunts for extra name tags dominated a small part of the morning.

"It's a very good success," said Josephine Squires, FHSU Model U.N. adviser and political science instructor. "We hope to incorporate all of these students into the real, globalized world, help them understand the issues, develop diplomatic skills and deal with those issues."

Similar to the actual U.N., the simulated version consists of delegations breaking up into separate committees and discussing and voting on resolutions brought forth. Some resolutions specifically reflect current affairs; some are purely hypothetical.

High school students are designated their country in advance by FHSU Model U.N.

Susan Brenn, a social studies instructor for Rawlins County High School, said her students have been preparing for the event by researching current events that possibly would affect their particu-



MICAH MERTES / Hays Daily News

Salina South High School student Bret Higgins, center, visits with other students as a delegate from North Korea on Thursday during the High School Model United Nations at Fort Hays State University.

lar countries — which included Brazil, Denmark and Belgium.

"I also had them write out short essays on certain questions

about what their country might do or pursue," Brenn said.

The FHSU Model U.N. has conducted this event for 30 years, said Shala Mills, chairwoman of the political science department.

"So, we have some experience," she said. "It's a terrific opportunity for students to learn about global political issues. You can't open a newspaper without ... take the November elections last week; they certainly hinged on people's concerns about global and political issues. This hopefully helps the students to find a lifelong interest in these issues."

Squires said that though such currently is not the case, many students who attended the high school Model U.N. have enrolled at FHSU and become members of the university's Model U.N. group. The FHSU Model U.N. meets twice weekly.

Reporter Micah Mertes can be reached at (785) 628-1801, Ext. 139, or by e-mail at [mmertes@dailynews.net](mailto:mmertes@dailynews.net).

### Briefs

#### Students to celebrate World Children's Day

Students at Hays High School and Fort Hays State University will help others celebrate World Children's Day on Saturday with activities and free food at the north McDonald's in Hays, 3406 Vine.

Starting at 9 a.m., students will participate in creative activities, with lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

The fifth-annual event will include a pinata, origami, face painting and other creative art activities.

From today through Sunday, a donation will be made to the Ronald McDonald's House Charities for every purchase of a Extra Value Meal, Happy Meal or Mighty Kids Meal.

World Children's Day is an annual worldwide fundraiser that benefits Ronald McDonald House Charities, as well as local children's causes.

Saturday's activities are sponsored by members of Hays High's DECA, a marketing program, and students in FHSU's Leadership 310 class.

More than \$75 million has been raised worldwide since its inception in 2002.

#### Senate leader proposes statewide district attorneys

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansans could have a chance to replace county attorneys with district attorneys for prosecuting criminal cases and reduce local property taxes as a result under a proposal by Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt.

Schmidt, R-Independence, is drafting a bill for the 2007 Legislature to give voters a chance to make the switch with the incentive of the state picking up the costs for district attorneys. Prosecutors — whether county attorneys or district attorneys — are paid from county funds.

He said the state taking over the costs of a prosecutor's office would cut county budgets, which in turn would reduce property taxes. Schmidt said the legislation would be drafted to ensure the reduced budget would result in lower property taxes.

Kansas has a dual system of prosecutors. There are district attorneys in Douglas, Johnson, Reno, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties and each county is a judicial district.

The other 98 counties are divided into 24 multi-county judicial districts and each county has a prosecutor.

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## Leading black actors lend talents to Bible Experience

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — It's an epic telling of the life of Jesus — an ambitious production featuring an all-star cast. But it's not a movie or miniseries.

It's a new audio Bible released by Zondervan, one of the world's largest publishers of religious books.

"Inspired By ... The Bible Experience: New Testament" features a large, all-black cast including some of Hollywood's biggest names. And in the world of audio books, it's a smash.

It has been at or near the No. 1 spot among the best-selling books listed on Wal-Mart's Web site since its early fall release. The retail chain Family Christian Stores say it's the fastest-selling audio Bible it has ever stocked.

The 21-hour production features the voice talents of more than 250 singers, clergy and actors, including Denzel Washington, Cuba Gooding Jr., Angela Bassett and Alfre Woodard. Blair Underwood portrays Jesus, and Samuel L. Jackson, who played a Scripture-spouting hit man in



**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
Blair Underwood portrays Jesus during a recording session at Zondervan's recording studio in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"Pulp Fiction," is the voice of God.

"It's really good and it's transcending every barrier. We're thrilled with the way that the product has turned out," said Paul Caminiti, vice president

and publisher of Bibles for Zondervan, a Grand Rapids-based division of News Corp.-owned HarperCollins.

Zondervan started shipping "Bible Experience" in late September and has sold more than 70,000 units, Caminiti said. By comparison, Zondervan, which publishes the five best-selling audio Bibles in the United States, sells about 60,000 units each year of its longtime top-seller, the "New International Version Audio Bible."

"Bible Experience" is available on CD and in mp3 formats, with an Old Testament version due in fall 2007 that is expected to run much longer. It will feature many of the same well-known actors, although someone will take over for Jackson as God, a role that will balloon from about two hours to more than 70 hours.

The project is the brainchild of Kyle Bowser, a former television executive with a law degree. At Fox Broadcasting Co. in the early 1990s, he helped develop such TV shows as the sketch comedy series "In Living Color,"

a show with a mostly black cast that also propelled white comedian Jim Carrey to stardom, and the Charles S. Dutton situation comedy "Roc." Dutton is one of the performers on the new audio Bible.

Bowser, who is black, said he recommitted himself to Christianity in 1997 around the time his wife, TV sitcom producer Yvette Lee Bowser, was pregnant with their first child. A few years later, he bought a 65-CD audio Bible that he quit listening to "after the first two or three discs" because he was not inspired by the storytelling.

"The production value was lacking and I thought, gee whiz, if we could do this and really capture people's attention, how much more impactful and engaging it might be," he said.

Bowser formed a Beverly Hills, Calif.-based production company called Inspired By Media Group with three fellow Christians: new media executive Ron Belk, music producer Louis "Buster" Brown and casting director Robi Reed, who was prin-

cipally responsible for getting commitments from the talent.

About a year and a half ago, an agent representing the four partners approached Zondervan with their idea. The publisher agreed to provide financing as well as text from its Today's New International Version Bible, a conversational translation aimed at young readers.

"Bible Experience" spent several years in development before recording started last December. Work on the entire New Testament, plus part of the Old Testament, was completed by July 1.

Underwood said in a written statement that he was proud to have worked on the project, which he said was a "unique and timely" version of the Bible.

The producers decided early on to cast only black actors and other personalities, hoping to attract a black audience, as well as fans of some of the world's biggest box-office draws. They also wanted to shatter the Hollywood mold of white Bible productions.

"I was particularly interested in developing a product that might resonate with the African-American community," Bowser said. "I've long felt that Christian product tends to ignore our perspective."

He called it "a gift from our community to the world to be shared and appreciated by all." "Bible Experience" features a complete, original musical score with selections performed by the Prague Symphony Orchestra. Its state-of-the-art sound effects take listeners into the story.

Virtually every actor whom Reed approached immediately agreed to participate. All performers received union scale pay with a few of the biggest names promised "nominal" percentages of profits, Bowser said.

"No one did this for the money," he said.

On the Net:  
Inspired By Media Group:  
[www.inspiredby.com](http://www.inspiredby.com)

## Follow Mary's example for a merry Christmas

I wrote this article several years ago and would like to run it once again.

Businesses all over the country have considered or have already implemented a policy to take not only "merry" out of Christmas, but Christmas as well, calling it "Happy Holidays," so as not to offend anyone. You may think it's a bit early for a Christmas article, but I'm convinced this truth should be realized year round.

May I submit to you that if one would understand how Mary was so mightily used of God in giving birth to his son, we would have no problem keeping "Merry Christmas" at the very center of our celebration. As one man said, "have a Mary Christmas." Mary's life was penetrated by the seed of God, changing her, and she gave birth to the promise of God.

Frequently in life, realized truth is missed because of how or what someone else believes. Every year, Protestants, who usually think the less said about Mary the better, are faced with her intimate involvement birthing the redeemer of mankind. We try really hard not to criticize or condemn the veneration of Mary. Trying hard to understand how some be-



**Wes Oakley**

FAITH

lieve Mary's involvement to be more than what "we" believe, and not allowing a spirit of divisiveness to separate those who know Jesus as savior and lord should be our goal.

This is not a Protestant crusade, but it is an honest attempt to be open to Mary's example. The fact Mary yielded to the Holy Spirit, conceived the son of God in her womb and gave birth to a manifested "redeemer" should be a wonderful encouragement to the family of God.

Mary didn't come along by chance. God chose her, and her involvement was of her own free will and was used mightily by God. And by looking at her exam-

ple, we can anticipate our lives being used by God to bring his redemption to mankind.

God penetrated Mary's womb with life. He wants to penetrate our spirit with his life. God's life grew within Mary. He wants to grow big within us. God's growth began to make a change in Mary (literally). He wants his life in us to change us, too. When we change, especially in becoming more like him, we then can be used by God to change the world around us.

What are we (Protestants) going to do with Mary? How about follow her example when she said, "according to Your Word, be it unto me." Mary yielded to the word of God and was used pow-

erfully by our Heavenly Father. The word of God coming into one's life is life changing.

Mary literally gave birth to God's son. She was there during the earthly ministry of her son. She was there at the crucifixion of her son. She was there when not only she, but 119 others were filled with the Holy Ghost, meaning the very one she gave physical birth to became her savior, redeemer and baptizer. The Apostle Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ," and this Christmas we would be wise to follow Mary's example of yielding one's life to God.

"Mary" Christmas to You,  
Wes Oakley is pastor of Westview Church, Hays.

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*Jim & Clarice Peteete*

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## Editorial

## Power politics

Sunflower's proposed plant should be scrutinized, then allowed to be built

Sunflower Electric Power Corp.'s plans to build three 700-megawatt power generators are not progressing without public opposition. So many opponents showed up in Lawrence on Thursday night for a public hearing, in fact, that state regulators are having yet another hearing tonight.

While we agree that such a large-scale project should undergo intense scrutiny, it appears the opponents in Lawrence are relying on emotional arguments — not legal or logical ones.

The coal-burning plant, which would be constructed near Sunflower's current 360-megawatt plant in the Garden City area, will be designed, constructed and operated within all existing local, state and federal requirements. That's not only what the utility promises, it's what the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is obligated to ensure happens. So what's to protest?

Some in attendance at Thursday's meeting claimed that the new plant will contribute to the mercury levels in the air and have an effect on global warming. One opponent said, "There is no such thing as clean coal." Others worry about the effect on the Ogallala Aquifer, from which the plant will draw its water.

These concerns have merit. But they've already been dealt with by Sunflower.

The new plant will need approximately 24,000 acre-feet of water annually. In order to meet this physical requirement, the Hays-based company will utilize agricultural water rights already acquired from existing water-rights owners. There will be no net increase on water usage from the aquifer. In addition, the plant will not discharge industrial wastewater. All discharges will be recycled within the plant.

That the plant will put more mercury into the air is not in dispute. It's an inescapable by-product of the power plant production cycle. But Sunflower is utilizing the latest technological advances to reduce how much is emitted. By having the gas pass through a powdered active carbon unit, the utility expects the mercury emission level to be less from these three new generators plus the existing Holcomb Station than is currently discharged from the existing plant. And the levels are well within government-

lowed limits. Other air emissions will be minimized as well. Sulfur dioxide will be controlled with a dry-lime flue gas desulfurization system. Carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and other particulate matters all have their own particular control devices.

The new units will utilize low-sulfur coal from Wyoming that will be pulverized before burning. Utilizing such technology increases the efficiency of the plant as well.

We believe Sunflower Electric is paying attention to every potential effect the proposed plant could have on the environment. And, most certainly, they're meeting all existing rules and regulations. So what gives?

"The issue isn't Sunflower, the issue is regulations that are currently in place," said Carol Meyer, president of the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce and a proponent of the plant.

We believe that's at the heart of the opponents' protests. And, as such, they should be targeting KDHE, not Sunflower.

They also should not attempt to change the rules during the middle of the game. Businesses make decisions based on current and anticipated future regulatory conditions. Sunflower should not be expected to comply with every environmentalist's wishes.

Sunflower is planning for the future with this endeavor. Not only will the plant be able to accommodate any growth that should occur in the state, the construction phase itself will provide some 1,850 jobs. Throw in indirect jobs, and it climbs to 3,600 workers. Once online, the power plant will employ more than 500 either directly or indirectly — with an estimated payroll of \$24 million annually.

Sunflower hopes to start construction on the three generators next year and finish by 2013.

The creation of power is not without side effects. But we offer that the side effects in this project are minimal and well within regulations. The upside is a steady supply of efficient power and a strong economic boost to western Kansas.

KDHE should listen to what opponents have to say — and then explain how Sunflower is dealing with their concerns. And then KDHE should allow Sunflower to proceed with its new power plant.

Full steam ahead.

Editorial by Patrick Lowry  
plowry@dailynews.net

The editorials represent the opinion and institutional voice of The Hays Daily News but are signed by the author for the reader's information. Guest editorials are from other newspapers and do not necessarily represent the views of The Hays Daily News. Other content on this page represents the views of the signed columnist, cartoonist or letter-writer. The Opinion Page is intended to be a community forum. Guest editorials and syndicated columnists are selected to present a variety of opinion.

## Reader Forum

## Share unhappiness with pheasant-season change

I hope that every farmer who has unharvested crops in the fields on this year's change in pheasant season opening day (one week earlier) writes, e-mails or calls both Mike Hayden, Kansas Secretary of Wildlife and Parks, and Dr. James Harrington, chairman of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission, to voice dismay with the inappropriate change.

Mike Hayden, Secretary of Kansas Wildlife and Parks, Office address: 1020 S. Kansas Rm 200, Topeka, KS 66612-1327; ph. (785) 296-2281.

No direct e-mail address for the secretary is available but indirectly send your message to [donnae@wp.state.ks.us](mailto:donnae@wp.state.ks.us).

Dr. James Harrington, chairman KDWP Commission, address: RR2 Box 347C Liberal, KS 67901; ph (620)624-3260; e-mail address: [drcrash@swko.net](mailto:drcrash@swko.net).

Paul Babcock  
Hoxie

## Where to write

E-mail addresses for city of Hays department heads:

City Manager Randy Gustafson — [randyg@haysusa.com](mailto:randyg@haysusa.com)  
Assistant City Manager Toby Dougherty — [tdougherty@haysusa.com](mailto:tdougherty@haysusa.com)  
Public Works, Brenda Herrman — [bherrman@haysusa.com](mailto:bherrman@haysusa.com)  
Airport, Terry Urban, manager — [turban@haysusa.com](mailto:turban@haysusa.com)  
Convention and Visitors Bureau, Jana

Jordan — [jjordan@haysusa.com](mailto:jjordan@haysusa.com)  
Fire, Gary Brown, chief — [gbrown@haysusa.com](mailto:gbrown@haysusa.com)  
Police, Jim Braun, chief — [jbraun@haysusa.com](mailto:jbraun@haysusa.com)  
Human Resources, Susie Billinger — [sbillinger@haysusa.com](mailto:sbillinger@haysusa.com)  
Director of Finance/City Clerk, Mark Loughry — [mloughry@haysusa.com](mailto:mloughry@haysusa.com)  
Parks Department, Jeff Boyle — [jboyle@haysusa.com](mailto:jboyle@haysusa.com)



## Communities must embrace change



Ron Fields

## COMMENTARY

Most change moves at a glacial pace, especially when it comes to a community.

Streetscapes might change, but never in one fell swoop.

In Burlington, Iowa, last week, the city unveiled its new public library, a contentious issue that's been going on since before former Daily News editor Bill Mertens served as city hall reporter a generation ago — newspaper clips show the issue began in the 1950s.

There's one thing all smallish towns have in common: A longing for the return of a romantic yesteryear.

The "remember whens" rule the day in some places, consistently deriding the present in favor of days gone by.

The worst part of that mindset is that, in most places, that epoch of prosperity and warmth never really happened. The mind has a way of pruning the weeds from memory's garden.

Doctors making house calls? Part of the reason they did was that their patients didn't have transportation, and even when the doctor arrived, chances are he couldn't diagnose beyond what his senses revealed.

Corner grocery store? The tiny town I grew up in had a corner grocer, who offered one brand choice on every item, presented sketchy produce and overcharged for the basics.

Garbage on television? In the not-too-distant past, children's programming consisted almost wholly of Sesame Street at 9 a.m. and cartoons from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday. An argument for the days when the airwaves weren't filled with so much, well, stuff, looks past reality. There's more child-friendly, commercial-free programming on TV and available over the Internet than ever before. Offerings such as the History Channel and National Geographic often are more like sitting in a college lecture than existing as a lump on the couch.

Several weeks ago, I was talking to David Williamson, an Iowa sculptor who found a second calling preaching change to economic developers and private companies across the country.

When I asked him about the idea that small communities are slow to embrace change, I heard frustration in his voice.

"There is no status quo," growled the normally jovial artist/economic developer/comedian. "And there never was."

If life is change, communities are, as well.

Faces come and go. The people on the sidewalk today aren't the same folks who walked through the Chestnut Street District a generation ago. Storefronts are graced with different names, new logos, new products.

And with change comes a choice: thrive or flounder.

While many metropolitans saw the future and embraced technology over manufacturing, small towns were slower to react.

And they bore the brunt of the manufacturing chaos that wracked the nation beginning in the late 1990s.

Years later, some communities have yet to adjust their strategy. Many still are sending postcards to huge companies, trying to recruit expansions that just aren't coming. These same towns are the ones that have no or inadequate Internet presence — the first step third-party site selectors take when investigating a new locale.

For years, Jack Schultz, author of "Boomtown," has been investigating how small communities adapt to the

changing economic landscape.

His blog, [boomtownusa.blogspot.com](http://boomtownusa.blogspot.com), chronicles small-town successes around the nation, places that not only have recovered, but also prospered in this new, global, technology-driven society.

The one commonality? Ambitious leaders with ideas, a populace that embraces change and an ability to overcome the CAVE people (citizens against virtually everything).

His favorite tale is of Mooresville, N.C., a town of about 10,000 once dependent on the now largely defunct U.S. textile industry.

Jumping onto the NASCAR bandwagon, the community billed itself as Race City USA, providing incentive for race teams to make a home in the small town. Once a trickle began, it wasn't long before the dam burst.

Several race teams now call Mooresville home, and cluster industries catering to their auto needs have joined the fray, bringing good jobs to a place desperate for them.

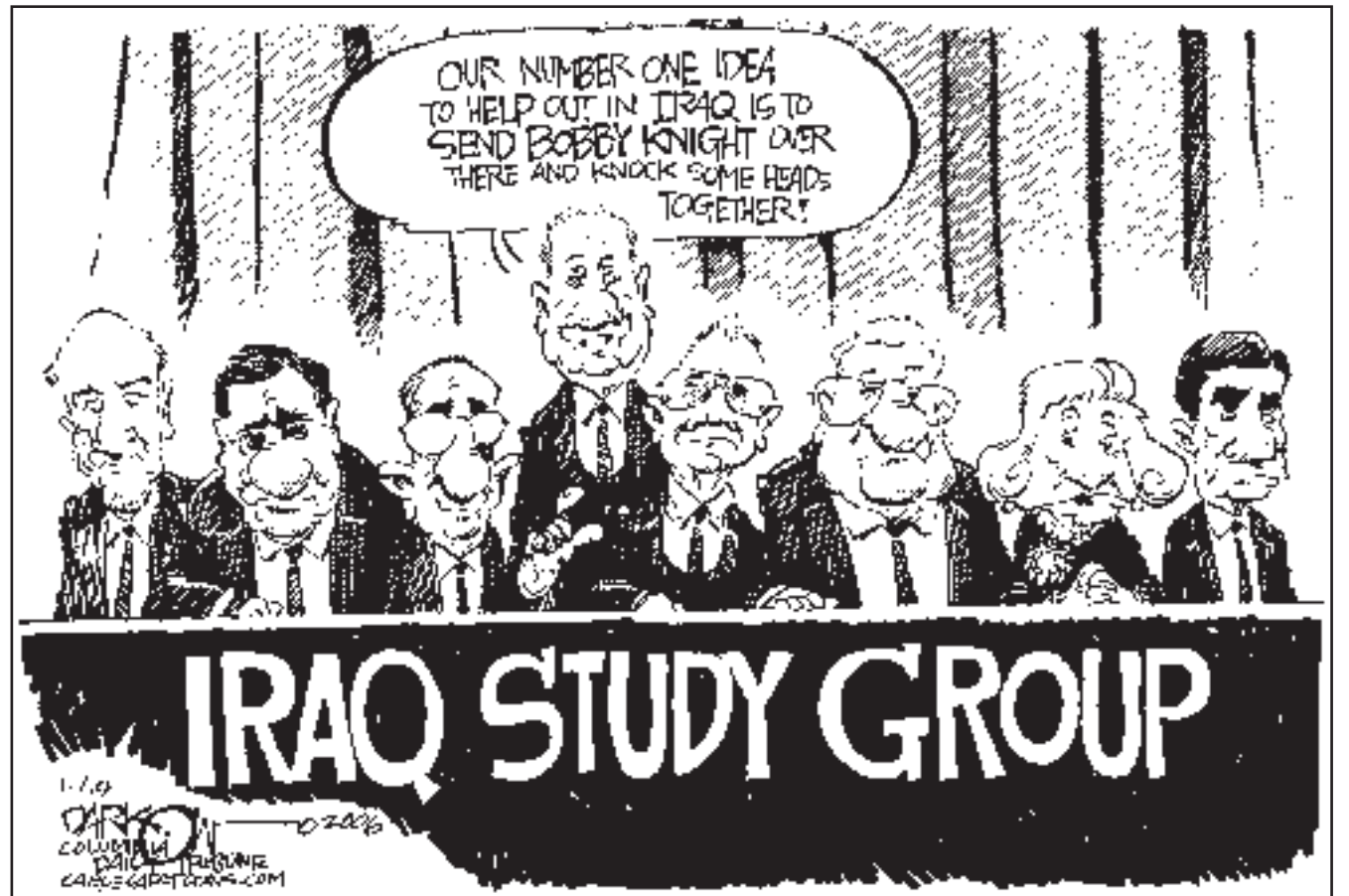
When Lowe's was investigating a site for its new headquarters, its affiliation with NASCAR led to Mooresville getting a look.

When the discount box store chose the small town as its home base, it brought with it 5,000 new jobs, again changing the once-floundering community for the better.

Possibilities are out there. Positive change is possible, and I look forward to delving into what Hays and northwest Kansas is doing to facilitate moves in the right direction.

But, make no bones about it, change isn't on the way, it's already here. The difference between success and failure will be the way the community anticipates and reacts.

Ron Fields is managing editor of The Hays Daily News.  
[rfields@dailynews.net](mailto:rfields@dailynews.net)



## How much does politics count?

Blacks and Hispanics, especially blacks, are the most politically loyal people in the nation. It's often preached and taken as gospel that the only way black people can progress is through racial politics and government programs, but how true is that? Let's look at it.

In 1940, poverty among black families was 87 percent and fell to 47 percent by 1960. Would someone tell me what anti-poverty program or civil-rights legislation accounted for this economic advance that exceeded any other 20-year interval? A significant chunk of that progress occurred through migration from rural areas in the South to big Northern cities. Between 1960 and 1980, black poverty fell roughly 17 percent and fell one percent during the '70s. Might this have been a continuation of a trend starting much earlier, or was it a miracle of the civil-rights movement or President Johnson's War on Poverty?

Dr. Thomas Sowell's research points out that in various skilled trades, the incomes of blacks relative to whites more than doubled between 1936 and 1959. What's more, the rise of blacks in professional and other high-level occupations was greater during the five years preceding the Civil Rights Act of 1964 than the five years afterward.

In 1940, 86 percent of black children were born inside marriage, and the illegitimacy rate among blacks was about 15 percent. Today, 31 percent of black children are born inside marriage, and the illegitimacy rate hovers around 70 percent.



Walter E. Williams

## COMMENTARY

In the mid-1960s, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan sounded the alarm for the breakdown in the black family in his book "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action." At that time, black illegitimacy was 26 percent. Moynihan said, "At the heart of the deterioration of the fabric of the Negro society is the deterioration of the Negro family." He added, "The steady expansion of welfare programs can be taken as a measure of the steady disintegration of the Negro family structure over the past generation in the United States."

Moynihan's observations were greeted with charges of racism and blaming the victim. If one accepts that a weak family structure has devastating effects on well-being, pray tell us what solutions can be found by electing Republicans or Democrats to the Congress, Senate or White House.

By the way, today's growing illegitimacy among whites is what it was among blacks in the 1960s.

Another significant problem for black Americans, independent of whether there are Democratic or Republican congressmen, senators or president, is the level of crime in many black neighbor-

hoods. It's a level of crime unimaginable to most Americans and unimaginable to blacks of yesteryear. In 2005, the nationwide murder rate, per 100,000 of the population, was 5.6. Cities with large black populations had much higher murder rates, such as: Gary, Ind. (58), Richmond, Va. (43), Detroit (39), and Washington (35).

According to Justice Department figures, blacks were six times more likely than whites to be homicide victims, and 94 percent of black victims were murdered by blacks. Again, pray tell us what solutions will be found by electing Republicans or Democrats to the Congress, Senate or White House.

Homicide is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the level of crime in many black neighborhoods.

The overwhelmingly law-abiding residents of these neighborhoods live their lives in fear of assault and battery, rape, robbery and various forms of intimidation.

High crime not only turns many neighborhoods into economic wastelands, but they cause the most stable members of those neighborhoods to be the first to leave. The solutions to the major problems that confront many black people won't be found in the political arena, especially not in Washington or state capitols.

Walter E. Williams is the John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University, Fairfax, Va., and a longtime syndicated columnist.

## Reader Forum policy

A community is best served when residents are willing to discuss issues publicly. You can be part of the discussion by participating in the Reader Forum.

Please limit your submissions to 600 words. They will be edited for length and clarity. They must be signed and in-

clude a name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. We reserve the right not to print a submission.

We do not accept for publication on the editorial page poems, consumer complaints, business testimonials or

group letters.

Mail them to Reader Forum, The Hays Daily News, 507 Main, Hays KS 67601. You also can send them by e-mail at [readerforum@dailynews.net](mailto:readerforum@dailynews.net). Please include an address and daytime telephone number.

# Ohio congressman to lead House GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans Friday chose Rep. John Boehner as minority leader, succeeding Speaker Dennis Hastert in the top GOP leadership post for the Democratic-controlled House that convenes in January.

Boehner defeated Indiana conservative Mike Pence. The vote tally was 168-27 with one vote for Texas Rep. Joe Barton. Boehner's election cements the Ohio conservative's resurrection within GOP leadership ranks. His elevation to succeed Hastert as the party's front-line leader came despite unrest within the rank and file and a spirited campaign by Pence.

Shortly afterward, Rep. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., was elected to keep his post as whip, which will be the No. 2 GOP job when Republicans become the minority party in January. Blunt is currently the No. 3 House Republican; he defeated Arizona conservative Rep. John Shadegg despite sentiment for fresh leadership faces. The vote tally was not immediately announced.

Boehner succeeded Tom DeLay, R-Texas, as majority leader in February and was easily elevated to replace Hastert, who is

leaving the leadership ranks in the wake of the Democrats' victory.

Boehner initially rode Rep. Newt Gingrich's "Contract With America" campaign to power when the Republicans won control of the House in the 1994 midterm elections. But he was purged along with Gingrich, R-Ga., in the wake of the party's disappointing performance in the 1998 elections.

"We need to start by rebuilding the Republican brand," Boehner said. "Republicans need to get back to our core principles and rededicate ourselves to the reform mind-set that put us in the majority 12 years ago."

Boehner was elevated despite the GOP's Election Day drubbing in the wake of the Mark Foley congressional page scandal. Boehner was among the few lawmakers to learn of inappropriate e-mails sent by Foley, R-Fla., to a former page from Louisiana.

Boehner testified last month before an ethics panel, telling investigators that he had apprised Hastert last spring of the Foley situation — a conversation that the speaker says he does not recall

Boehner told his colleagues that he would work to tighten ethical standards in the wake of a series of recent scandals that tarred the GOP: DeLay's indictment in Texas; a guilty plea on corruption charges by Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif.; and another guilty plea by Bob Ney, R-Ohio, on corruption charges in the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal.

House Republicans still are recovering from the shock of an election in which they lost control of the chamber for the first time in 12 years. Many GOP lawmakers feel the party strayed from its conservative roots and that their leaders fostered a culture in which retaining power seemed more important than sticking with principles.

That was the message carried by Pence, an ambitious religious conservative.

Pence argued that Republicans needed to adopt a new, more aggressive attitude now that the party is entering the minority. He said the lure of power caused them to drift away from principles such as curbing federal spending.

## Briefs

### Senate endorses U.S.-India nuclear cooperation deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Thursday overwhelmingly endorsed a plan allowing the United States to ship civilian nuclear fuel and technology to India, handing President Bush an important victory on one of his top foreign policy initiatives.

Senior lawmakers from both political parties championed the proposal, which reverses decades of U.S. anti-proliferation policy, saying it strengthens a key relationship with a friendly Asian power that has long maintained what the United States considers a responsible nuclear program. The vote was 85-12.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., called the plan "a lasting incen-

tive" for India to shun future nuclear weapons tests and "to cooperate closely with the United States in stopping proliferation."

Bush, in a statement issued during a trip to Asia, praised the Senate for endorsing his plan, saying it will "bring India into the international nuclear non-proliferation mainstream and will increase the transparency of India's entire civilian nuclear program."

### Social Security privatization called 'off the table'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The incoming chairman of the Senate Finance Committee said Thursday he wants to have hearings on looming insolvencies in the Medicare and Social Security

programs but said President Bush's plan to partially privatize Social Security is dead.

"Don't waste our time," said Democratic Sen. Max Baucus of Montana. "It's off the table."

He said the rising cost of Medicare and other health costs is a priority for the committee, though he did not detail how the committee would approach those problems. He said he will have "vigorous" hearings on the issue.

Baucus said he will propose legislation to simplify the Medicare prescription drug program by streamlining the number of plans available and making it easier for people to choose one.

Baucus, 64, has been on the committee for more than two decades and briefly was chairman when Democrats took Senate control in 2001.

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Obituaries

Alice M. Rome

Alice M. Rome, Hill City, died Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006, at Graham County Hospital, Hill City. Services are pending at Stinemetz Funeral Home.

Wendell Byers

Wendell Byers, 86, Great Bend, died Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006, at Great Bend Health and Rehabilitation Center.

He was born Oct. 31, 1920, in Barton County to Earl J. and Florence Deborah (Curry) Byers.

He married Betty Jean Ruble on Dec. 24, 1941, in Great Bend. She preceded him in death Oct. 3, 1999. He was manager for Scheufler Supply and Big A Auto Parts. He served as a veteran during World War II with the Army Air Corps.

Survivors include a daughter, Jo Ann Doan, Hays; two grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Bryant Funeral Home, Great Bend; burial in Great Bend Cemetery.

Visitation will be until 9 p.m. today, with family present from 6 to 7 p.m., and at 9 a.m. Saturday until time of service, both at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to

**Bill Byrnes**, 53, Natoma, died Monday, Sept. 11, 2006, in Edgewater, Colo. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Chalk Mound Cemetery, Woodston, with a reception following at Mount Ayr Friends Church, Alton.

**Ernest John McCormick**, 88, Chapman, died Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, at Geary Community Hospital, Junction City. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Michael Catholic Church, Chapman; burial in St. Patrick Cemetery, northeast of Chapman. Visitation will be all day today at Londean Funeral Chapel, Chapman. A vigil service and rosary will be at 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

**Gerald J. Windholz**, 66, St. George, Utah, died Monday, Nov. 6, 2006, at St. George.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Brock's North Hill Chapel, 2509 Vine, Hays; private inurnment in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

**Charley R. Vavroch**, 87, Oberlin, died Monday, Nov. 13, 2006, at Decatur County Hospital, Oberlin. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Oberlin; inurnment in Oberlin Cemetery. Visitation will be until 8 p.m. today and from 8 a.m. until time of service Saturday, all at Pauls Funeral Home, Oberlin. A vigil service will be at 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

**Everett Richard Williams**, 76, Hays, died Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2006, at his home. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays; inurnment in Mount Allen Cemetery.

**Reinhold J. "Mac" Suppes**, 84, Great Bend, formerly of Bazine, died Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Great Bend; burial in Great Bend Cemetery. Visitation will be until 9 p.m. today at Bryant Funeral Home, Great Bend. A vigil service with Knights of Columbus rosary will be at 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Hays Daily News will publish a basic, standard obituary free of charge for people with direct ties to the newspaper's circulation area. If survivors desire to add information to an obituary, they may do so for an additional charge. Completely custom obituaries are handled as paid advertising. For more information, call (785) 628-1081.

Byers and Doan Nursing Scholarship at the Fort Hays State University Endowment Association in care of the funeral home.

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PS3: Reservations made for game systems at stores

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

If early bids are any indication, Baskerville's investment should pay off handsomely.

The last-minute decrease in shipment number has made PS3s even more exclusive. And online auctions for the feverishly sought-after consoles are ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,500, as of this morning. One auction went as high as about \$7,000.

About 10,000 systems were up for bid on eBay as of late this morning.

Baskerville's PS3 was one of two 20-gigabyte versions available at the Hays Wal-Mart; four 60-gigabyte versions (\$600) were also in stock.

All six machines were sold in a matter of minutes, as were the six vouchers for PS3s scheduled to arrive in two to three weeks.

Though you'll find stories of long lines, overnight camping and even a shooting elsewhere, the PS3's arrival in Hays was fairly uneventful, due to the sheer lack of systems in the area.

Hastings Books, Music & Video scheduled a launch party for the new system at midnight, but, because of the lower-than-expected supply, the retailer received no consoles. The party was canceled.

Assistant Manager Lynn Schmeidler found out the store was not receiving any PS3s earlier this week.

"Hastings got allotted about 300, and what corporate decided doing instead of giving every store one or two," Schmeidler said, "they decided to give them to the stores in bigger cities."

The consoles should arrive at the Hays Hastings in mid-December, she said.

At Gamestop in The Mall, reservations were made for PS3s about three weeks ago, but no additional consoles were available today.

Assistant Manager Thomas Hornung could not say how many reservations were made. "Hopefully, we'll get some more in soon," Hornung said.

Shortly before Baskerville and Gilpin, Hays residents Kevin Koenigsmann and Sarah Streit walked out of Wal-Mart with a 60-gigabyte PS3.

Like others buying a PS3 in Hays this morning, they're not big gamers either. "This is strictly for profit," Koenigsmann said.

And, gamers and Internet-auction aficionados, another console is on the horizon. Nintendo will release its latest console, the Wii, Sunday in North America.

The Hays Wal-Mart, Hastings and Gamestop all are expected to receive shipments of Wiis this weekend.

Reporter Micah Mertes can be reached at (785) 628-1801, Ext. 139, or by e-mail at mmertes@dailynews.net.

Electric plants opponents crowd hearing

By SARAH KESSINGER HARRIS NEWS SERVICE

LAWRENCE — An overflow crowd at a public hearing Thursday night led state air-quality officials to schedule yet another hearing tonight on Sunflower Electric's requested permit to build new coal-fired electric plants in Finney County.

Thursday's was the third hearing in recent weeks over the plants, and it drew more than 300 people, many who had to sit in an adjacent room at the University of Kansas Student Union and listen as testimony was piped into the room.

Tonight's hearing is set for 5 p.m. in the Union's ballroom.

Much of Thursday's crowd arrived to protest the plan for a trio of plants that will produce 2,100 new megawatts of electricity for con-

sumers largely in other states. The plants' resulting pollution was the target of opponents, who warned of greater levels of mercury in the air and to global warming.

"History will not be kind to us if we fail to respond to what we know," said Wes Jackson, founder and president of the Land Institute near Salina. "Much of our future is in the hands of KDHE and the governor, who need to bury this proposed boondoggle."

Sunflower executives countered that they would use the best available technology to control the new plants' emissions.

Officials from Garden City, near the proposed expansion of Sunflower's current electric generator, praised Sunflower for its track record as "a good community partner."

Matt Allen, assistant city manager, noted the public has had the chance to help create the current state regulations of air pollution.

Sunflower's expansion was designed to comply with these "acceptable parameters," he said.

But several participants also pointed out the plant's use of groundwater, noting it would contribute to the continued rapid decline of the Ogallala Aquifer.

But a southwest Kansas water official defended the proposal, saying it wasn't going to change current depletion levels.

"This project won't consume any more water than is already being used," said Mark Rude, manager of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District at Garden City.

As testimony continued through the evening, students circulated a petition asking for the permit denial. Organizer Ethan Nuss, of the environmental student group 20/20 Vision, said coal and power companies were scrambling across the country to build plants before Congress passes new restrictions.

CITY: SafeRide free for riders, for time being

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

"The most serious concern is about the care and safety of the riders — them not strapped down properly or not having same sort of restraints," Schwaller said.

"We're not accusing anyone of anything, we just want to make sure we're in agreement about what is important."

Straight reiterated ACCESS practices and policies.

"Every vehicle I have on the road is wheelchair accessible," Straight said.

He acknowledged one employee was not adhering to some of the policies, but the situation was remedied.

"We're wanting to try to transport as many people as possible," Straight said, "and it is in our best interest to transport them safely."

Discussion shifted from the ACCESS van's day job to what the vehicles are used for at night — SafeRide.

"People want to know why it's free," Schwaller said. "Why do elderly and senior citizens have to pay for a ride and, in theory, drunk Fort Hays students get a free ride?"

**OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE HAYS CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

- City employee health insurance renewal for 2007. Susie Billinger, human resources director, said the rates are at the projected levels for 2007, but the city should consider taking bids for 2008 health insurance levels. The commission will vote on the insurance renewal at next week's meeting, which will be Tuesday because of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- 2007 pay plan and job classification schedule for employees not represented by Service Employees International Union Local 513. The commission will vote on the pay plan and job classification at next week's meeting.
- Pre-annexation agreement for APAC office building, 820 Canterbury, to provide water services to the facility. The agreement might be on next week's meeting, depending if the company provides a legal description of the property to city hall by the end of the day.
- Establishing the Hays Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. City Attorney John T. Bird said that the county's adoption of county-wide zoning means the county has no involvement with the 3-mile radius around the city. The city will readjust the board, which likely will include at least two members from the 3-mile area. The commission will consider the resolution/ordinance in February.

Fort Hays State University Police Chief Ed Howell joined the discussion and said the program is not only for those hoping to avoid a DUI.

"Please understand that SafeRide is not a drunk ride," Howell said. "During those hours, if you need a ride to Wal-Mart or the grocery store, the ride is free."

Those riders account for less than 5 percent of rides, Straight said, and are generally earlier in the evening.

Schwaller again probed about money, asking if there should be a fee associated with SafeRide.

"I have mixed emotions,"

Straight said. "I've had several individuals who've said they would pay \$5 a ride to keep themselves out of trouble, and then you also have individuals who have no money with them."

The program is funded with money from diversion fees from DUIs, private and corporate donations, some bars and restaurants, FHSU, Drug and Alcohol Wellness Network and FHSU's Student Government Association.

While SafeRide is free, Straight said he thinks ACCESS rides during the day should maintain a fee because it helps foster a feeling of ownership of

the program. While a fee will be maintained, Straight said it likely will decrease to \$1 per ride instead of \$1.50 after the first of the year.

Mayor Wayne Billinger said he would like to see a list of rights for both drivers and riders.

"At one time, we had the policies summarized on the vehicles, and they were found laying around the vehicles," Straight said. "We haven't put them on recently because we're changing vehicles."

Reporter Karen Mikols can be reached at (785) 628-1081, Ext. 143, or by e-mail at kmikols@dailynews.net.

Commission considers trash collection during Thursday meeting

By KAREN MIKOLS HAYS DAILY NEWS

Trash talk ended the Hays City Commission meeting Thursday night.

Myron Schlegel challenged the idea of moving to mandatory trash collection in 2007.

"If I'm not planning to use it, why should I pay for it?" Schlegel said.

City Manager Randy Gustafson

said more than 500 residences in the city do not have trash service. Of those, about five dozen have contracts with private haulers. He has no idea how many dispose of their trash, as Schlegel does.

"We're trying to streamline the process and clean up the city," said Commissioner Barbara Wasinger.

During the budget process this summer, the commission based solid-waste income on mandatory

trash collection with an automated system. Such an operation would cost customers \$14.20 monthly. If mandatory collection is not required with an automated collection, the rate for each customer would be \$14.70.

"The automated system will keep the rate increase down," Gustafson said.

If the city does not shift to automated collection, rates would jump to \$14.60 as is and \$14.10

with mandatory collection. Regardless of possible changes, the system needs to be reviewed, Gustafson said.

"We want to ultimately get to a situation where the commission routinely considers adjusting water and sewer and all city rates as part of the budget," Gustafson said.

Reporter Karen Mikols can be reached at (785) 628-1081, Ext. 143, or by e-mail at kmikols@dailynews.net.

PREPARATION: Columbine changed many things

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Saltzman addressed some of the precedents set by Columbine. For starters, new guidelines for the media.

"Students who were hiding were calling on their cell phones," she said, "and the media was broadcasting where they were hiding."

Potentially, she said, if a television was available to one of the assailants, it could have led to revealing the hidden student's location.

She also mentioned the Rocky

Mountain News' running of a photo of a murdered student. The parents of the student didn't know of their child's death until they saw the photo in the paper.

"(Columbine) caused a big ethical discussion in the journalism world," Saltzman said. "I think it really raised awareness of some of the ethical issues."

Columbine and subsequent school shootings also raised the question, how much school security is too much?

"You want your school to be a warm, welcome place," Saltzman said, "not a prison."

Though she said video cameras and metal detectors can be good deterrents, the best step in prevention is encouraging student openness. If someone feels threatened, they need to tell a teacher or school official, she said.

"A lot of us grew up in a climate where you don't rat on other people," she said. "We're not in a world like that anymore. We can't keep silent."

Saltzman worked as a communications specialist for Jefferson County Public Schools, the largest school district in Colorado, for 20 years. In addition to consulting

the Platte Canyon School District, she works as a senior consultant for Schoolhouse Communications, a Denver firm that specializes in helping education clients communicate more effectively about the need for school improvement and system-wide change.

Both the workshop and presentation were sponsored by the FHSU Public Relations Student Society.

Reporter Micah Mertes can be reached at (785) 628-1801, Ext. 139, or by e-mail at mmertes@dailynews.net.

Midday markets

LOCAL INTEREST

Courtesy Darrell G. Seibel, Edward Jones

	Price	Change		Price	Change
Alltel Corp.	55.76	-46	Kroger	22.17	-6
Anheuser Busch	47.01	-6	McDonald	41.55	-12
AT&T	32.84	+44	Microsoft	29.40	-7
Atmos Energy Common	32.47	+24	Molson Coors	71.25	+04
Bank America Corp.	54.95	+5	Northwest Nat. Gas	40.82	-10
Baxter	45.96	-18	Raytheon Co.	50.44	+1
BP	66.09	-53	Semco Energy Inc.	6.20	-13
Carmark Rx	47.33	-129	Southwest Gas Corp.	6.20	-5
Commerce Banc	50.68	-28	Sprint Nextel	20.06	-9
Con Agra	25.20	-14	Sysco Corp.	35.10	-25
Deere & Co.	89.34	-08	Sykes Enterprises	17.85	-14
Duf & Phelps	10.88	+0	Lowe's Co.	30.20	-51
Duke Energy	31.59	+9	Home Depot Inc.	38.00	+19
El Paso Corp.	13.68	+11	Liz Claiborne	42.39	-30
Halliburton	32.41	-10	Union Pacific	91.43	-56
Kinder Morgan	105.10	-6	Wal Mart	67.82	-29
Kellwood Co.	29.96	-18	Westar Energy	26.08	-14

LIVESTOCK

Courtesy DACO Inc.

Est. Cattle Slaughter	122.00
Choice 3-beef	\$142.70
Western Ks Cattle	\$87.50
Peoria Hogs	\$37.00

CHICAGO MERCANTILE

Courtesy DACO Inc.

	Prev High	Prev Low	Prev Close	Noon Quote
<b>Live Beef Cattle</b>				
December	88.20	86.35	88.15	87.60
February	90.80	88.90	90.70	90.20
April	91.50	89.75	91.40	91.00
June	87.60	86.25	87.50	87.20
<b>Feeder Cattle</b>				
November	976.25	974.50	976.25	976.25
January	982.00	948.50	982.00	988.00
March	971.25	937.50	971.25	976.00
May	983.25	954.00	983.25	990.00
<b>Hogs</b>				
December	62.10	61.10	62.00	61.10
February	65.60	64.50	65.55	64.80
April	67.70	66.60	67.60	66.95
June	73.30	72.50	73.20	72.60
<b>Pork bellies</b>				
February	91.80	89.80	91.00	92.40
March	91.20	90.70	91.00	92.50
May	91.50	91.50	91.50	91.50

OIL

Courtesy Daco Inc.

	dollars per barrel
Kansas Crude,	\$47.75
NY Spot Crude,	\$58.95 - \$0.07

LIVESTOCK

National Slaughter Cattle Summary - Week Ending Today. Compared to last week: Slaughter cattle traded 1.00 higher this week on good demand. Slaughter rates were strong but this because of the short kills next week during the Thanksgiving holiday week.

HAYS CASH GRAINS

	dollars
Courtesy Midland Marketing	
Local cash wheat	4.74
Local cash milo	5.93

KANSAS CITY WHEAT

	Prev High	Prev Low	Prev Close	Noon Quote
December	5.20	5.00	5.11 1/2	5.08 1/2
March	5.40	5.20	5.25 1/2	5.23 1/4
July	4.92 1/2	4.80	4.83 1/4	4.80

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE

Courtesy DACO Inc.

	Prev High	Prev Low	Prev Close	Noon Quote
<b>Wheat</b>				
December	4.85 1/2	4.60	4.68 3/4	4.60
March	5.06	4.80	4.80	4.80
July	4.75	4.62	4.64 3/4	4.60
<b>Corn</b>				
December	3.60	3.50	3.51 1/2	3.40
March	3.79	3.60	3.60	3.61 3/4
May	3.81 1/2	3.69 1/2	3.71 1/4	3.66 1/2
<b>Soybeans</b>				
January	67.0	65.1 1/2	65.56 1/2	65.50
March	6.82 1/2	6.60	6.68 3/4	6.66 1/2
May	6.91 1/2	6.72 3/4	6.77 3/4	6.70
<b>Soybean meal</b>				
December	194			

# Good Luck At State!

## Victoria Knights



**Congratulations on  
a Great Season!**



**G&L Tire**  
Bob & Twyla Alan & Jackie  
2900 Vine  
785-625-0035

**Top Notch Guttering**  
Box 235 Victoria  
785-735-9205  
785-735-4826

**Auto World**  
Used Cars  
722 E. 8th \* Hays  
625-0050

**Don C. Staab, Attorney**  
1301 Oak  
Hays \* 628-8517

**United Ag Service**  
305 Main  
Victoria \* 735-2705

**Frank Brungardt**  
Liquor Store  
409 Main  
Victoria \* 735-2310

**Wildcat Pump & Supply**  
102 Ballpark Road  
785-735-9730

**His & Her Styling Station**  
Sharon Bleske  
1205 E. Hwy. 40  
Victoria \* 735-2454

**Dreiling Accounting**  
402 Main  
785-735-2261

**F&M Insurance**  
Frank & Twila Brungardt  
Marla Robben, Agent  
407 Main  
Victoria \* 735-2206

**Pete Braun**  
Construction  
610 Jefferson  
Victoria \* 735-9263

**Kansas Monument Co.**  
Daren & Dana Lang  
Good Luck  
at State!

**Victoria High School**  
Alumni Association  
Victoria

*Eline's* **MORTUARY**  
OF HAYS AND VICTORIA  
628-8822 \* 735-9224

**Commerce Bank**  
718 Main  
29th & Plaza Ave.  
625-6542

**Gorham State Bank**  
408 Main, Victoria  
www.gorhamstatebank.com

**CARPET ONE**  
America's Largest Carpet Retailer  
By *VITZTUM*  
Decorating Center, Inc.  
113 E. 13th \* Hays \* 625-5623

**Sunflower Bank**  
401 Main  
Victoria \* 735-2201

**Warren's Meat Market**  
1010 E. 29th  
625-4902

**Gasper Auto Trim & Upholstery**  
301 Main Street  
785-735-4449

**Wedding Connections**  
Harriett VonFeldt  
Victoria \* 735-2862

**ABC Seamless**  
1507 E. 27th \* Hays  
625-2418

**Robben Oil Company**  
207 West Main  
Victoria \* 785-735-2846

**Mini Motors**  
1206 1st Street  
Victoria \* 735-9474

**Weber Body Shop**  
208 E. Main  
Victoria \* 735-2440

**Bob's Custom Cabinets LLC**  
2557 Spring Hill Road  
785-735-2497



**Robben Insurance, Inc.**  
416 Main \* Victoria  
735-9304 or 1-800-597-5208

**James Motor**  
Company  
108 E. 13th  
625-3481

**Victoria City Motor Co.**  
Jeff & Shari Hertel  
West Hwy. 40 \*Victoria \*  
735-2228

**R & S Oilfield**  
Service, Inc.  
P.O. Box 15 - Victoria, KS  
785-735-9448

**Insurance Planning Inc.**  
3006 Broadway  
Hays \* 625-5605

**The Library**  
Victoria, KS  
785-735-2811

**Victoria Lumber Co., Inc.**  
Jim, Becky & Jared  
Hwy. 40 Victoria \* 735-9215

**Kippes Insurance Agency, Inc.**  
Jason N. Kippes, Agent  
P.O. Box 50  
Victoria \* 735-9485

**Mary Beth Fisher**  
Landmark Realty LLC  
2004 Vine, Hays  
365-8994 or 628-2861

**Goodwin Sporting Goods**  
109 W. 11th \* 625-2419  
Hays

**Cross Manufacturing Inc.**  
1001 Canterbury Dr.  
625-2585

**St. Fidelis Church, Victoria**  
"Cathedral of the Plains"  
735-2777

**Keller Furniture**  
Galleries  
2 blocks east of 8th & Vine  
628-1048

 **St. John's**  
Via Christi Health System  
735-2208

**Schmidtberger**  
Construction  
1116 E. 3rd  
Victoria \* 735-2250

## Kirwin whoopers



STEVE CONSTABLE / Special to The Hays Daily News

Four whooping cranes, two adults and two juveniles, are pictured Monday wading in a shallow water flat at Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge. There are only about 200 of these birds in North America.

## News briefs

## Boat ramp temporarily closed at Cedar Bluff

The Cedar Bluff Wildlife Area boat ramp, located on the main lake just east of Cove 3, will be closed for about two weeks to make the ramp more useful at a greater range of water levels.

The ramp will be extended 160 feet to accommodate boaters using the ramp from conservation level to levels 30 feet below conservation level. The lake is currently 16.3 feet low.

Weather pending, the ramp should be reopened by Nov. 29.

The Muley Ramp in the South Shore State Park and the West Overland Boat Ramp located on the North Shore of the State Park both still are accessible.

For question, contact the Cedar Bluff Office at (785) 726-3212.

## Seasons

■ **Canada goose** — Through Feb. 18. Daily bag limit of three geese. State and federal waterfowl stamps are required.

■ **Deer (muzzleloader)** — Nov. 29 to Dec. 10.

■ **Deer (firearms)** — Nov. 29 to Dec. 10.

■ **Deer (archery)** — Through Dec. 31.

■ **Duck (High Plains zone)** — Through Jan. 2 and Jan. 20 to 28. State and federal waterfowl stamps are required. The daily bag limit for ducks is five.

■ **Duck (Early zone)** — Through Dec. 10 and Dec. 16 to 31. Youth season is Saturday and Sunday. State and federal waterfowl stamps are required. The daily bag limit for ducks is five.

■ **Duck (Late zone)** — Through Dec. 31 and Jan. 20 to 28. State and federal waterfowl stamps are required. The daily bag limit for ducks is five.

*Duck season bag limit — This bag may include no more than two scaup, two redheads and two wood ducks. In addition, only one duck from the following group may be included in the daily bag: hen mallard, pintail, canvasback or mottled duck. For example, if a pintail is taken, no hen mallard, mottled duck or canvasback can be taken that day; if a hen mallard is taken, no pintail, mottled duck or canvasback may be taken that day, and so forth. The daily bag may comprise five of any other duck, such as five mallard drakes, five teal or five wigeon.*

■ **Light geese** — Through Feb. 18. Daily bag limit of 20 geese with no possession limit, state and federal waterfowl stamps are required.

■ **Light geese (conservation order)** — Feb. 19 to April 30, no bag or possession limits. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns; state and federal waterfowl stamps are required.

■ **Pheasant** — Through Jan. 31.

■ **Prairie chicken (all except southwest)** — Saturday to Jan. 31.

■ **Prairie chicken (southwest)** — Saturday to Dec. 31.

■ **Quail** — Through Jan. 21.

■ **Rabbit** — Open all year; daily bag limit of 10. A hunting license is required.

■ **Common (Wilson's) snipe** — Through Dec. 16, daily bag limit of eight.

■ **Sandhill crane** — Through Jan. 4. Daily bag limit of three cranes, state and federal waterfowl stamps are required.

■ **Squirrel** — Through Feb. 28, daily bag limit of five. A hunting license is required.

■ **Trout** — Through April 15, a fishing license and trout permit are required. Daily creel limit of five trout.

■ **Turkey (fall)** — Through Nov. 28, Dec. 11 to 31, and Jan. 8 to 31.

■ **White-fronted geese** — Through Jan. 7 and Feb. 10 to 18. Daily bag limit of two geese, state and federal waterfowl stamps are required.

■ *Indicates open season.*

## waterfowl Report

■ **Cedar Bluff Wildlife Area** — 10,000 ducks and 3,000 Canada geese reported.

■ **Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area** — 120,000 ducks, 60,000 Canada geese, and 140,000 light geese.

■ **Wilson Wildlife Area** — 1,000 ducks, 500 geese.

■ **Webster Wildlife Area** — 1,000 ducks and 1,000 geese.

■ **Norton Wildlife Area** — 1,000 ducks and 600 geese.

■ **Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge** — 100,000 ducks and 12,000 Canada geese and 33,000 light geese.

## Disease worries scaring off some donors

By CRAIG MEYER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LINCOLN, Neb. — A statewide program designed to help the needy is wasting away faster than the big game that support it.

Hunters Feeding the Hungry, a program that allows sportsmen to donate meat from their harvest of big game, is at a standstill following the emergence of chronic wasting disease found in deer in western Nebraska, Wyoming and Kansas in the last few years.

Craig Schneider, the Lincoln area's representative for Hunters Feeding the Hungry, said that it's unfortunate that a group of people so willing to help others is being rejected.

"Two years ago, tons of meat was donated in Nebraska," Schneider said. "It's basically a moot issue now, because we can't find anyone to take

the meat even when people want to donate it."

Schneider said that more than 10,000 pounds of meat was donated each year to local food banks and homeless shelters statewide before the emergence of the disease and the scare that followed.

Glenn Buis, owner of Panama Locker, a local meat processor who has facilitated hunters' donations in the past, said that four or five deer were donated each year to the food bank and city missions in Lincoln, but they no longer accept the meat.

"It's really an excellent program, a national program to help the needy," Schneider said. "Almost every state has some sort of program set up to help the hungry by feeding them meat from harvested wildlife."

The World Health Organization and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found no scientific evidence to date that

chronic wasting disease can be transmitted to humans, according to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

"It's all kind of silly, because people have been eating venison forever, and there's never been any problems found before," Schneider said.

Despite the setbacks the program has had of late, Schneider said that there are still plenty of hunters out there who want to help.

"I received calls from three people who wanted to donate meat just last week, but unless we can find someone to take it, there's no use in having it donated."

"There's a lot of guys that want to give it away," Buis said. "I've already had two or three that harvested their deer on the opening weekend that want to donate it."

Schneider said that he hopes that more people will educate themselves on the disease and its effects so the

hunters can give something back to the community.

"I think people are just really leery" about the disease, Schneider said. "I could see if it was western Nebraska, where there has been actual cases reported, but that's simply not the case."

Schneider said there has been no history of the disease in southeast Nebraska and that only two cases were found in more than 200 wild deer tested in western Nebraska in 2001.

Schneider said one of the hunters that harvested an infected deer had already eaten about three-quarters of the animal before being notified that it was infected, with no negative side effects reported.

The disease might debilitate more than just the program if the apprehensive attitude toward deer due to the disease continues, Schneider said.

## Creampuff



GALEN ROMME / Special to The Hays Daily News

An albino fox squirrel munches on the last of the fall delicacies as it feasts beneath a tree in Hays.