



**Final salute**  
SOLDIERS FROM THE GARDEN CITY KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD STAND AT PARADE REST FRIDAY DURING THE CEREMONY TO OFFICIALLY CLOSE THE ARMORY. BRAD NADING SPECIAL TO THE HDN

**4 AROUND THE STATE**

**Briefs**

**Sheriff's office looks into ATV thefts**

Two 4-wheel ATVs and various hand tools were reported stolen from a machine shed in northeast Ellis County Thursday night.

Bruce Hertel, Ellis County Undersheriff, said the items belonged to Delmar Chrisler.

Hertel said anyone with information regarding suspicious vehicles driving in the area at night or early morning should call the Ellis County Sheriff's office at (785) 625-1040.

**Gov. seeks disaster declaration over storms**

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson is seeking a federal disaster declaration for 49 counties hit by winter storms in December and early January.

The state Adjutant General's Department said Friday that Parkinson sent a letter this week to President Barack Obama.

Parkinson said in a statement that he's hoping to obtain federal aid to help the state and local governments repair an estimated \$13 million in damage to roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

Parkinson's request includes the following counties: Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Graham, Logan, Norton, Phillips, Rawlins, Sheridan and Wallace.

**Agendas**

VICTORIA — The Victoria City Council will meet in regular session at 7:30 p.m. Monday at City Hall. The following business is scheduled:

- The council will approve the minutes, a warrant ordinance and the agenda at 7:30 p.m.
- EBH & Associations will make a presentation at 7:35 p.m.
- Cole Dinkel with the police department and City Superintendent Julius Windholz will give their monthly reports beginning at 7:45 p.m.
- The council will then discuss recycling and a final payment for the fire station roof as unfinished business.
- New business includes fire department appointments and elections, a resolution regarding a GAAP waiver, an American Fidelity agreement, a plumbers license application, the city clerk attending a conference, a loan agreement and a brochure advertisement.

The Ellis County Commission will meet in regular session at 6:45 p.m. Monday at the Ellis County Courthouse, 1204 Fort. The following business is scheduled:

- Public Works Administrator Mike Graf will discuss road and bridge, solid waste, noxious weed and environmental matters at 6:45 p.m.
- Commissioners will discuss a procurement policy for Ellis County, review February expense vouchers and authorize payment at 7:15 p.m.
- Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Ring will present his monthly report at 7:40 p.m., followed by Appraiser Dean Denning's monthly report at 7:50 p.m. and Emergency Medical Director Kerry McCue's report at 8 p.m.
- Information Technology Director Mike Leiker will discuss departmental matters at 8:10 p.m.
- The space needs committee will discuss proposals for a space needs assessment for the Ellis County Law Enforcement Center.

## Hays High team to honor Hertel's work

By KALEY CONNER  
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In her 17 years, Ana Hertel was an inspiration to many.

It's that inspiration that members of the Hays High School girls basketball team remember most about Hertel, who died Feb. 11.

"As much as we gave her, she probably gave it back to us tenfold," said Assistant Coach Abby Maska, "with the things she taught the girls and the example she was to them."

At Tuesday's 6 p.m. Hays High School girls basketball game, Hertel's classmates and former

teammates will play in her memory and celebrate her work. Hertel was a junior at HHS and an honorary member of the team in 2009.

Attendees are asked to bring a new stuffed animal to donate to Ana's Gift, a stuffed animal drive that Ana and her family launched in October. The animals will be donated to Hays Medical Center, Ellis County Emergency Medical Services and the Ellis County Sheriff's office to help children in difficult situations.

Hertel was born with multiple pterygium syndrome, a rare genetic disorder, and was left paralyzed from the waist down following surgical complications in 2007. She said receiving stuffed animals during her lengthy hospital stay was a source of joy and comfort.

"It made me happy," Hertel told The Hays Daily News in October.

Ana's Gift was a way for her family to "pass forward" all the kindness they received in the midst of their difficulties, and her teammates are

hoping Tuesday's game will help.

Lindsey Schmeidler, a junior at HHS and a member of the team, had known Hertel since middle school.

They became better acquainted on the team — Hertel would participate in team huddles and her name would be announced at the game's beginning. She even had her own jersey.

"It was just a shock that she passed away — no one was really expecting it," Schmeidler said. "It was really nice just seeing how we could affect her life and how she also helped us grow and learn."



Hertel



Jeff Haffner and Anthony Abdallah, actors with the Omaha Theater Company, act as though they're texting during an improv performance at Friday's acting workshop in the Hays Public Library.

## Actors show students they can

By KALEY CONNER  
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The 15 young adults who gathered at Hays Public Library for acting lessons Friday afternoon probably weren't counting on a workout routine. There was jogging, pushups and even a game of tag — and that was just the beginning.

A short time later, participants were busying painting the sky magenta, dancing on the moon and flying like Superman.

That was all part of an improvisation lesson taught by Jenny Guy, one of five professional actors and actresses with the Omaha Theater Company who took time to share their skills with young hopefuls.

"It was really interesting," said Nicole Feyherherm, an eighth grade student at Kennedy Middle School. "We learned a lot of different things to help us grow as actresses and actors if you're ever interested in that."

While Feyherherm said she's more interested in writing, she hopes to participate in high school plays.

The group was in town Friday for two performances of "The Little Engine That Could" as part of a national tour. The events were sponsored by the Hays Arts Council.

An afternoon performance was for kindergarten students in Hays, Ellis, Victoria, Plainville and La Crosse. A second show was open to



Aaron Jacobs and Rachel Moravek, both of Hays, perform an improv skit.

the public at Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center Friday evening.

While the tour will be stopping in 34 locations over three months, Hays is one of only two performances to include acting lessons, said actor Jeff Haffner.

"We have a lot of good teachers in the group, a lot of experience," Haffner said. "So it was actually kind of a nice diversion for us."

The students learned how to warm up their bodies and voices before a performance, and learned the basics of improv — accepting the lead from an acting partner and

adding to the story.

The group went around in a circle, building on each other's stories and practicing their acting skills. For aspiring young actresses like Aislinn Walters, the day's lessons were especially beneficial.

Walters, also an eighth-grader at Kennedy, practices acting with her friends, and has a habit of memorizing lines from her favorite movies, she said.

"It really is good for the experience to be able to do whatever," Walters said. "Especially the improv. I'm really into acting."

## More snow on the way for area

By KALEY CONNER  
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Residents of northwest Kansas awoke to a light dusting of white stuff Saturday morning, and as of Saturday afternoon, weather forecasts suggested there could be more coming.

A winter weather advisory is in effect until this evening, with between 3 and 6 inches of snow predicted in the northwest part of the state. Highest accumulations are expected along the Interstate 70 corridor, said Albert Pietrycha, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland.

"Some of the impacts will

definitely affect traveling, especially tomorrow morning," Pietrycha said Saturday. "Late tonight through tomorrow morning there will be slow going."

A snow system moved through the area Friday night, but yielded little accumulation. Measurements of up to 2 inches were reported in eastern Colorado, with 1.5 inches recorded in Goodland.

As that system passed through, another round of winter weather was right on its tail, moving in from the desert southwest. The snow is expected to taper off this evening, but temperatures

will remain low throughout the week, Pietrycha said.

While many residents are growing weary of the harsh winter weather, it's possible there could be another month of it, said Frederick Kruse, a meteorologist with NWS in Dodge City.

The onset of spring-like temperatures is difficult to predict, Kruse said, noting March can either roar like a lion or be as gentle as a lamb.

"In March, we can get the worst snow storms, blizzards and stuff, but then again, it could be nice," Kruse said. "It's hard to forecast two days out, much less a month."

## Senate rejects abolishing death penalty

TOPEKA (AP) — Senators rejected a bill to repeal Kansas' death penalty after a marathon debate Friday that was frequently as much about theology as crime and punishment.

The vote was 20-20, meaning the bill failed to get the required votes to send it to the House, which hasn't considered the issue all session. Senators said the repeal movement was over for the year.

The debate lasted nearly four hours. Several senators mentioned that the Kansas bishops of four Christian denomina-

tions had written a letter urging repeal of the death penalty.

The bill would have replaced the state's 1994 death penalty law and created a new sentence of life in prison without parole.

Ten men currently are under death sentences in Kansas. The proposed repeal wouldn't have affected those punishments. The state's last execution was in 1965.

Supporters of the death penalty said their faith promises an afterlife and that convicted murderers put to death will have to answer to their creator.

## Nonprofits oppose sales tax

HOUSE BILL REPEALING EXEMPTIONS WILL BE DEBATED THIS WEEK

by DAWNE LEIKER  
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Hearings by the House Taxation Committee on a bill that would repeal sales tax exemptions for nonprofit and charity organizations ended Tuesday.

The bill, opposed by nonprofits across the state, will be addressed in committee this week.

Local organizations, already pressed with economic concerns, would feel further pressure from the repeal.

"It would definitely make a difference to us," said Louise Reese, president of Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County. "We purchase all our building materials without having to pay sales tax. The tax exemption is a nice savings."

She is hopeful the repeal won't be passed. However, as a retired elementary school teacher, Reese understands the state needs to provide adequate funding for Kansas schools.

"I feel for the teachers because their class sizes are increasing," she said.

"If this is the only way to do it (raise funds) then I guess we will need to work with the problem," she said.

Among those giving testimony before the Taxation Committee was Shelly Chenoweth, CEO of Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland. Girl Scout troops across the state would be affected by a repeal of the sales tax exemption.

"Reductions in individual, corporate and United Way contributions have already forced us to close offices, camps and cancel programs," she said. "If sales tax exemptions are removed, girls would have even fewer opportunities."

According to her testimony, Girl Scout cookie sales account for nearly 60 percent of their annual revenue. The passing of the proposed bill would "cause a negative economic impact on product sales alone of more than \$500,000 to the Girl Scouts organization in Kansas."