

THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

VOICE OF THE HIGH PLAINS

SUNDAY, JAN. 6, 2013

NEWS TO KNOW



Back on the court

RUSSELL AND MANY AREA TEAMS GET BACK IN ACTION.
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On the mat

FHSU TAKES ON CSU-PUEBLO IN WRESTLING.
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Fitness regimen

WHOLE BODY HEALING THE GOAL FOR GYM.
PAGE C1

Weather

SUNDAY: SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE MID-30S. SOUTHWEST WINDS 5 TO 10 MPH. LOWEST WIND CHILL READINGS ZERO TO 10 ABOVE ZERO IN THE MORNING. SUNDAY NIGHT: MOSTLY CLEAR. LOWS IN THE LOWER 20S.

HDN salutes

TIMOTHY HUCK, HAYS

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Groups uncorking liquor law issue



CHELSY LUETH • HAYS DAILY NEWS

The proposal of a law to allow grocery stores and gas stations to sell alcoholic beverages could be proposed again this year in Kansas.

MEASURE TO ALLOW GROCERY, CONVENIENCE STORES TO SELL LIQUOR HAS FAILED LAST 2 YEARS

By RANDY GONZALES
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The Kansas Chamber of Commerce, among other groups, favors a proposal to change the sale of alcohol in Kansas. The last two years, efforts have failed to convince the Kansas Legislature to allow the state's grocery stores and convenience stores to sell wine, liquor and full-strength beer.

There will be another effort this year to "modernize these outdated laws," said Sheila Lowrie, a spokesperson for Dillon Stores.

Jody Hanson, public relations representative for Uncork Kansas, a coalition of con-

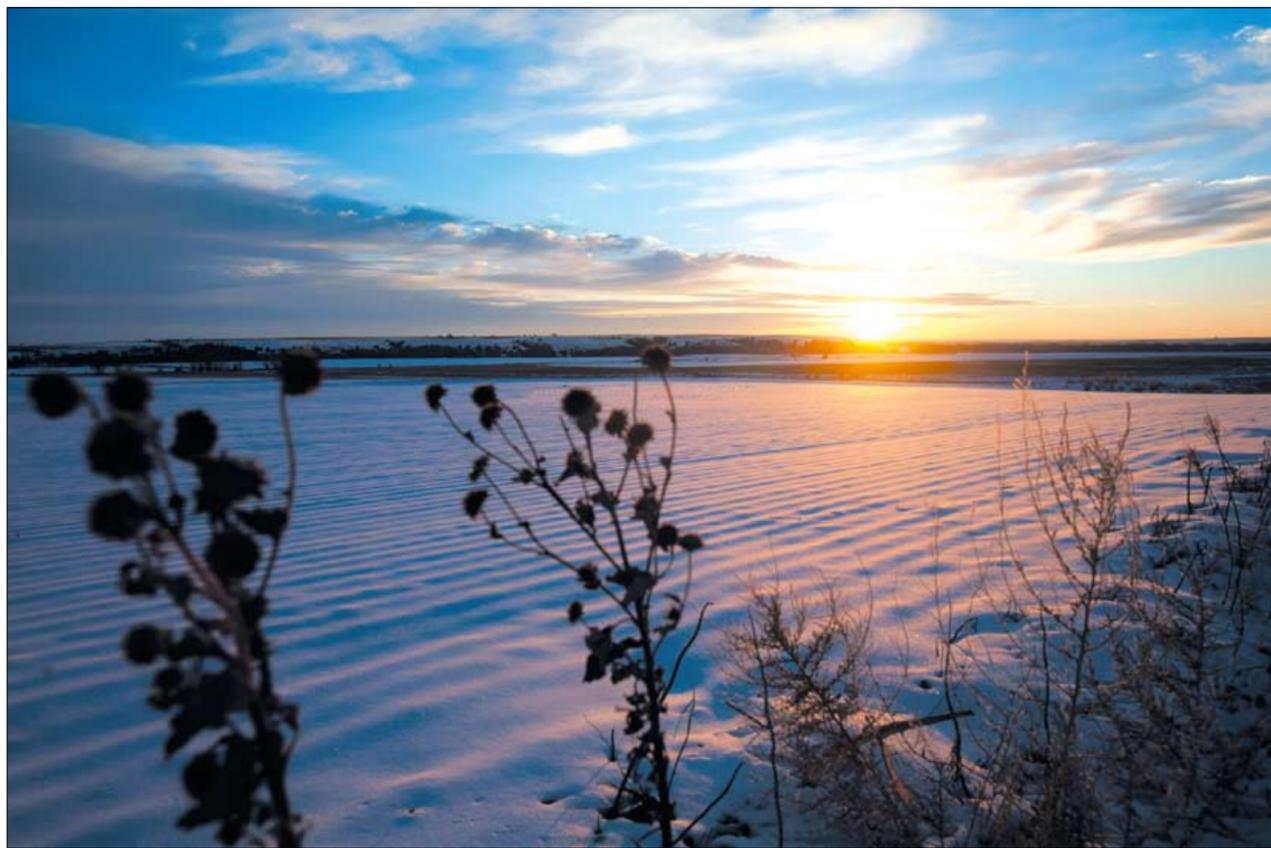
venience stores, grocery stores and chambers of commerce supporting a change in the law, said the issue "has been gaining a lot of momentum."

The Hays Area Chamber of Commerce is not a dues-paying member of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The local chamber was approached by both sides of the issue last year, and the board decided to remain neutral.

"From our perspective, it's about expanding consumer choice and supporting free enterprise and really encouraging healthy competition," Lowrie said. "From our perspective, those are all basic tenets of our economic system."

"We believe we can modernize these laws. There's so many ways consumers and retailers will win, with healthy competition."

SEE LIQUOR, A2



A winter's evening

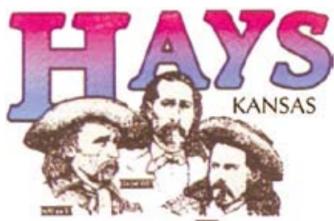
A blanket of snow rests on a field Friday evening near Kansas Highway 18 outside of Lucas.
CHELSY LUETH • HAYS DAILY NEWS

City wants to address board term limits, missions

By DAWNE LEIKER
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Hays city commissioners, as they evaluate the necessity of several city boards and committees, also have opened a conversation concerning term limits of city committee members.

Commissioner Henry Schwaller IV, who raised the issue of term limits at a previous city commission meeting, said at Thursday night's city commission work session his concerns stemmed from the fact some members of the Hays Area Planning Commission have served in their positions many years.



"The reason I brought this up is that the planning commission needs new membership, and we appreciate the service of all the people who have been on the planning commission and appreciate their experience and

wisdom and seniority," Schwaller said. "But some of those folks have served a very long time."

"And to some degree, after reading the minutes from some of their meetings in the past, it's a very entrenched group."

Hickman said he saw another way to handle the issue of term limits.

"Personally, I think we don't necessarily have to mess around with term lengths that are already designated, but just limit it to consecutive terms for each commissioner," Hickman said.

During the discussion of committee

member term limits, Commission Ron Mellick suggested the commission look at term limits for Hays city commissioners.

"All of us have been here a long time," Mellick said. "We need to have new blood."

"I'd like to have that put on the next work session, that we look at city commission term limits."

City Manager Toby Dougherty shared information regarding the city's various boards and committees with commissioners at Thursday's work session.

SEE CITY, A2

Commissioner reflects on four years of progress in Ellis Co.



Diehl

By RANDY GONZALES
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Glenn Diehl's four-year term as an Ellis County commissioner ends with Monday's meeting at 6:45 p.m. at Ellis County Courthouse.

Diehl chose not to run for reelection, citing family business concerns. His son and daughter both now are working in the family's oil

business, and Diehl's time will be spent with them.

"Kind of bittersweet," Diehl said of Monday's final meeting. "It would have been fun to continue, but everything had to come to an end."

"I made that decision, family came first. Just the way it has to be." The wind farm issue was what

prompted Diehl to run for commissioner four years ago.

"That got me real interested in the politics of it," he said.

Diehl's concern was how close wind turbines should be placed in relation to homes.

"To me, I still think we have plenty of room," he said. "You just don't have to site them so close to

people's homes."

Diehl said settling the wind farm lawsuit was one of the commission's achievements during his term.

"The first big accomplishment was to get all the parties around a table and agree on a settlement," he said.

SEE DIEHL, A2

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