



# THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

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## Weather

**Today:** Chance of snow early; high 45.  
**Tonight:** Partly cloudy overnight; low 34.  
**Full report, Page 5A**

## Inside today



## WU hoops

The Washburn men's and women's basketball teams ended their seasons over the weekend.  
**Sports, Page 1B**

## State budget

School teachers in Kansas are worried about the state pension system.  
**Today, Page 2A**



## New Heights

The Wichita Heights boys and girls ended perfect seasons with Class 6A state championships.  
**Sports, Page 1B**

## Coming up



## Time for salad

With spring approaching, it is a perfect time to start eating healthy with a delicious salad recipe.  
**Wednesday in Flavor**

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# More snow sprung on city

## Up to 6 inches predicted today after last week's spring-like temps

By Ann Marie Bush  
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

After short sleeves and golf on Friday and Saturday, Topekans will need to break out their snow boots and heavy coats to face today.

The National Weather Service in Topeka issued a winter weather advisory for snow and sleet Sunday evening that will end at 10 a.m.

today. Counties included in the advisory are Jefferson, Morris, Wabaunsee, Shawnee, Douglas, Lyon and Osage. Cities include Topeka, Lawrence and Emporia.

Rain and sleet were expected to change over to snow Sunday night. The snowfall, which is expected to end around 10 a.m. today, will leave 3 to 6 inches on the ground.

"The brunt of the snowfall should occur overnight," said Scott Whitmore, a NWS meteorologist.

Minor sleet accumulation may occur during the transition from rain to snow.

"Everybody should be careful in the morning," Whitmore said Sunday evening. "We are looking at lows around freezing so the roads

may be slick."

Sunday brought a mixture of weather across the state — everything from rain, thunder and hail to sleet and snow.

"March is one of the big transition months — almost everything from severe weather

Please see **SNOW**, Page 6A

LANGSTON HUGHES

# Owner believes home is piece of history



THAD ALLTON/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Deborah Edwards' home at 419 S.W. Taylor may have been the childhood home of Langston Hughes, a famous author.

## Famous poet may have lived in Topeka house

By Ann Marie Bush  
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

When Deborah Edwards purchased her home at 419 S.W. Taylor nearly 20 years ago, she didn't know the history behind it.

"I've always loved old houses," Edwards said last week while sitting in the living room of her Queen Anne brick home.

The home was built in 1889, according to Edwards, who began researching the house shortly after she moved into it.

"I have lived here since 1989," she said. "I moved in when it was 100 years old."

About a year ago, Edwards was approached by Leon Graves, a local historian. Graves informed Edwards that Langston Hughes, an acclaimed writer and poet, could have lived in the home as a child.

Shortly after Graves passed along the information, an old marble was found in the back of Edwards' home.

"I wondered if it was Langston

Hughes," Edwards said. "I wondered if he had played with it."

Edwards placed the blue marble among other items, which she calls "yard treasures," she has discovered in her yard.

Hughes' grandmother, Mary Langston, moved to Lawrence from Oberlin, Ohio, after the Civil War. Hughes was left with his grandmother at an early age by a mother

Please see **HUGHES**, Page 8A

# Without annex, courthouse deals with long lines

By Fredrick J. Johnson  
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

The long lines of people waiting to renew their vehicle registrations at the Shawnee County Courthouse aren't going to go away anytime soon.

Treasurer Larry Wilson said last week it wasn't likely he would be able to open another annex this year after closing the one at White Lakes Center last month.

Closing the annex — which had been a popular and time-saving option to the treasurer's courthouse office ever since it was opened by former Treasurer Rita Cline — has forced everyone to travel to the courthouse to renew registration on their vehicles and pay the personal property tax on them.

Wilson has said the change would cost vehicle owners some money for parking at the metered stalls around the courthouse and an-

other 15 minutes of their time.

He may have been right about the metered parking, but many of those who renewed their vehicle registrations last week might argue the additional waiting time has been underestimated.

At about 9:30 a.m. last Monday, people leaving the treasurer's office after conducting their business said the wait was at least an hour. Benches in the hall outside the office were full,

and three of the 10 stations at which taxpayers renew vehicle registrations had signs posted asking people to use the next window.

At 2:35 p.m. Tuesday, a taxpayer leaving the office said the wait had been at least an hour and a half. There were four empty stations. At about 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, patrons reported similar waiting

Please see **ANNEX**, Page 13A

# Phelps family walks out on film

## Kevin Smith shows 'Red State' to crowd in KC

By Bill Blankenship  
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — After protesting a screening of "Red State," Kevin Smith's horror movie inspired by Fred W. Phelps Sr. and the Westboro Baptist Church, the pickets accepted Smith's invitation to review the film on stage, but the WBC members instead expressed their opinion with their feet, leaving after 15 minutes.

The WBC members accepted

Smith's offer of 15 comp tickets that sold for \$75 each to watch the screening Saturday night, but Smith told the crowd in The Midland by AMC theater that about 15 minutes into the movie he felt a tap on his shoulder as he watched the screening from the back of the auditorium.

It was Megan Phelps-Roper, who is among Smith's more than 1.75 million followers on Twitter. She told the filmmaker they were leaving. Asked why, Smith said the Phelps' granddaughter responded, "This is filthy." However, she thanked Smith for the tickets and presented him with a sign they held in the pre-show protest. WBC members had autographed it

for Smith.

Smith seemed pleased with their attendance. When he introduced the movie, he said, "we like to refer to them as our marketing partners."

However, he did criticize them for not extending their protests down the street to the Sprint Center where the crowd attending the Big 12 basketball championship game competed for ticket sales and parking space with the movie.

He said the WBC members could have shouted, "God hates basketball. 'Red State' down here."

Supporters of the movie counter-

Please see **FILM**, Page 6A



JANUARY 2011 FILE PHOTOGRAPH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As he did in January at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah, filmmaker Kevin Smith answered audience questions Saturday night at The Midland by AMC theater in Kansas City, Mo., where he screened the Phelps-inspired horror film, "Red State."

# Kansas, K-State ready to dance

By Tim Bisel  
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

The madness already has begun. If you don't believe it, just ask the folks in Colorado who have enough rage to melt snow.

Closer to home, though, neither Kansas nor Kansas State have reason to be mad. The Jayhawks are right where they always seem to be in mid-March — positioned as one of the highest seeds in the NCAA Tournament — and the Wildcats are drawing praise as a potential darkhorse.

When the NCAA Tournament brackets were unveiled Sunday, KU as expected was awarded a No. 1 seed in the Southwest Region, where the Jayhawks (32-2) will play Boston University (21-13) on Friday in Tulsa, Okla. K-State (22-10) was named the

Please see **DANCE**, Page 13A

## NCAA TOURNAMENT

The Kansas Jayhawks enter the NCAA Tournament as a No. 1 seed in the Southwest Region, and the Kansas State Wildcats are the No. 5 seed in the Southeast Region.



**No. 1 Kansas (32-2) vs. No. 16 Boston (21-13)**  
**When:** 5:50 p.m. Friday  
**Where:** Tulsa, Okla.



**No. 5 Kansas State (22-10) vs. No. 12 Utah State (30-3)**  
**When:** 8:57 p.m. Thursday  
**Where:** Tucson, Ariz.

## SPORTS, PAGE 1B

- The Kansas Jayhawks are hoping they can avoid another B-sting.
- The Kansas State Wildcats receive a better seed than they were expecting.
- New KU athletic director Sheahon Zenger recalls the stress of Selection Sunday when working in the Missouri Valley Conference.