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## Gadhafi shown no mercy

### Libyan killed after his convoy leaves hometown retreat

By Christopher Gillette  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIRTE, Libya — Dragged from hiding in a drainage pipe, a wounded Moammar Gadhafi raised his hands and begged revolutionary fighters,

“Don’t kill me, my sons.” Within an hour, he was dead, but not before jubilant Libyans had vented decades of hatred by pulling the eccentric dictator’s hair and parading his bloodied body on the hood of a truck.

The death Thursday of Gadhafi, two months after he was driven from power and into hiding, decisively buries the nearly 42-year regime that had turned the oil-rich country into an international pariah and his own

personal fiefdom.

It also thrusts Libya into a new age in which its transitional leaders must overcome deep divisions and rebuild nearly all of its institutions from scratch to achieve dreams of democracy.

“We have been waiting for this historic moment for a long time. Moammar Gadhafi has been killed,” Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril said in the capital of Tripoli. “I would like to call

on Libyans to put aside the grudges and only say one word, which is Libya, Libya, Libya.”

President Barack Obama told the Libyan people, “You have won your revolution.”

Although the U.S. briefly led the relentless NATO bombing campaign that sealed Gadhafi’s fate, Washington later took a secondary role to its allies. Britain and France said they hoped his death would lead to a more

democratic Libya.

Other leaders have fallen in the Arab Spring uprisings, but the 69-year-old Gadhafi is the first to be killed. He was shot to death in his hometown of Sirte, where revolutionary fighters overwhelmed the last of his loyalist supporters Thursday after weeks of heavy battles.

Also killed in the city was one of his

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**Weather**

**Friday:** Sunny and warmer; high 68.  
**Friday night:** Mainly clear; low 42.  
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**Inside today**

**End Zone**  
Saturday’s Sunflower Showdown takes on added importance for Kansas coach Turner Gill.  
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**Line of duty**  
The Shawnee County district attorney has cleared two Topeka police officers in the death of a man wielding a knife.  
Today, Page 2A

**On stage**  
Lieutenant Columbo comes to Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy in “Prescription: Murder,” the stage play that inspired the television series.  
Weekend, Page 11A

**Coming up**

**Church photos**  
For many churches, photo directories are an instrumental way to put faces with names.  
Saturday in Religion

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### OBSTACLE COURSE

## Scrape, push, plow: Ready for winter



JEN CLARK/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

A Topeka public works employee maneuvers a bladed truck through an obstacle course Thursday at S.E. 8th and Madison. As winter approaches, more than 40 public works employees are honing their ability to drive a snowplow.

### Public works employees practice snow-plowing skills

By Jen Clark  
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Frank Ortega climbed into the cab of a truck Thursday morning ready to clear snow from the city’s streets.

After last-minute instructions, setting his mirrors and adjusting his blade, he eased off the brake and began his route — a maze of cones and obstacles set up to help prepare drivers for what they will face during an actual snow event.

Ortega was one of more than 40 city public

works employees going through training in the city parking lot at S.E. 8th and Madison.

Scott Greeno, safety coordinator for the city, said it was “mandatory for all public works employees if they are involved in snow removal.”

That amounts to about 45 class E drivers with varying levels of experience.

“Everyone who will be driving a truck this winter goes through the course — from new

hires to the most senior person on our crew,” said Terry Tillman, production manager for the Public Works Department.

Ortega, one of the new hires, was pleased with his effort on the course, which he described as “difficult.” He said the most challenging part of the course was “trying to get as close to the curb as I could.”

Tillman’s observation: “He did pretty good. He seemed to be confident. That’s what we

Please see **SNOW**, Page 7A

## Stanley opens option for job

### City to consider starting long-term manager search

By Tim Hrenchir  
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Interim city manager Dan Stanley didn’t rule out the possibility of seeking the job on a long-term basis

after word emerged Thursday that the Topeka City Council on Tuesday will consider starting its search for a permanent city manager.

Stanley plans to help the council find a long-term manager, said city spokesman David Bevins.

“It has been Mr. Stanley’s intention since he assumed the position of interim city manager to assist the city council in finding a new manager,” Bevins said.

Please see **STANLEY**, Page 7A

## Possible school closing weighed

By Angela Deines  
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

A familiar figure to the Topeka City Council and other elected officials in Shawnee County appeared before the Topeka Unified School District 501 school board Thursday evening, voicing his opposition to the closing of Avondale East Elementary School, 455 S.E. Golf Park.

Joe Ledbetter said while he doesn’t reside or own property in or around the Hi-Crest neighborhood where the school is located, he said he served as the Neighborhood Improvement Association’s president from 2003 to 2005. He said he attended Avondale East for at least one year as a child.

Ledbetter said he spoke out against closing Avondale East as a “concerned citizen.” He said closing the school would devalue the neighborhood’s properties even further and hurt children.

“They’re just going to create a hardship on these kids,” he said. “They

Please see **SCHOOL**, Page 14A

## Home invasion meeting draws crowd

### Police peppered with queries about defense of property

By Corey Jones  
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Perhaps the large turnout at the Topeka Police Department’s home invasion seminar Thursday evening is an illustration of the level of concern residents harbor and the severity of crime the capital city has endured this year.

Police Chief Ron Miller estimated the crowd at 250 people, which he said was an “amazing” turnout for a community meeting.

Topeka police brass and an American Medical Response paramedic took questions and spoke during the two-hour gathering at the Capitol Plaza Hotel.

A significant increase in home invasions this year prompted the session.

Many people asked about hypothetical situations in which they were under attack, under the threat of attack or their property was at risk.

One person asked whether he had to wait for a burglar to enter his residence before shooting the individual, or if he could fire at him while the burglar was still on the front porch.

Police Lt. Dean McWilliams, who also is a lawyer, said it comes down to reasonableness in a given situation. What would another reasonable person do in a similar circumstance?

That, McWilliams said, is what the district attorney looks at when weighing charges and what a jury must decide for conviction.

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COREY JONES/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Police Chief Ron Miller speaks to about 250 people Thursday evening at the Capitol Plaza Hotel during a seminar on home invasions, a turnout he calls “amazing.”