



COLBY FREE PRESS

Colby picked as site for gubernatorial debate

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Thanks to Colby Community College, the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series and Tom Moorhous and committee members who pull the strings that put things into play for the series, the two major gubernatorial candidates will hold one of their five debates in Colby in the fall.

The Colby Free Press learned this morning that Democrat Kathleen Sebelius and Repub-

lican Tim Shallenburger will debate the issues leading up to the Nov. 5 general election in Colby on Sunday, Oct. 6.

The debate will be part of the Pickerill Lecture Series, which, over the years has been responsible for bringing many notables to northwest Kan-



Sebelius



Shallenburger

las. Debbie Schwanke, who directs public relations at the college, said today that the gubernatorial debate here has been in the works for a while and credited the hard work of Moorhous and his team with bringing it to realization. She also indicated that the League of Women

Voters are involved with site, date and time issues for this and the rest of the debates.

The Associated Press said today that the two campaigns expect to announce on Friday the specifics as to time and site in the communities involved.

In addition to Colby, other debates will be held at the following locations:

- Sept. 7: Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson.
- Sept. 16: Wichita Rotary Club.
- Oct. 6: Colby Community College.

— Oct. 8: Several suburban Kansas City chambers of commerce.

— Oct. 22: WIBW television, Topeka.

Sebelius had no opposition in the Aug. 6 primary, while Shallenburger topped both Senate President David Kerr and Wichita Mayor Bob Knight to win the Republican nod.

Sebelius is currently state insurance commissioner and Shallenburger is state treasurer.

The debate in Colby is expected to attract a large crowd from a wide area.

Shallenburger not worried about lack of endorsement

TOPEKA (AP) — Republican Tim Shallenburger said Wednesday that he's not worried that his gubernatorial campaign doesn't have GOP incumbent Bill Graves' endorsement.

Graves, a moderate, has refused to say whether he'll endorse Shallenburger, a conservative, after he won the Aug. 6 primary.

The two men haven't met face-to-face since the primary. Graves skipped a GOP "unity" breakfast the morning after the election.

"We have our campaign to run. He's got a state to run," Shallenburger told reporters. "I'm sure that we'll have an opportunity over the next few days to talk to him."

Meanwhile, Shallenburger and Democratic rival Kathleen Sebelius had different responses about a new State Board of Education member's proposal that the state stop educating the children of illegal immigrants.

Sebelius supports such education, her campaign said.

Shallenburger responded, "Ask me in a week. I have to think about it."

Graves' slowness in announcing whether he will endorse Shallenburger is notable because other moderate Republicans have declared their support, including U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts and U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran.

Roberts called again Wednesday for party unity and said he will try to campaign for the entire GOP ticket.

"There's an overall, overarching goal that Republicans must think if we are to be the party of governance, and that is that we have to be united," Roberts said.

Still, Roberts refused to chastise Graves.

"I think he'll assess that down the road," Roberts said. "I'm sure the gov-

ernor is fully capable of making his statement to that whole issue."

But not all moderates are willing to endorse Shallenburger.

Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer said he won't unless Shallenburger reverses a promise not to increase taxes and pledges to support education, even if it requires a tax increase.

Shallenburger said: "That's his business. We're not going to tell somebody we're going to raise taxes for their endorsement."

As for Graves, Shallenburger first said, "Our plan is to win the election, whether we get endorsements from anybody or not."

But later, he added: "We think the governor's important. He has been the standard bearer for the party for the last eight years. He has been the governor, and we would hope that he would support us but we can't push him."

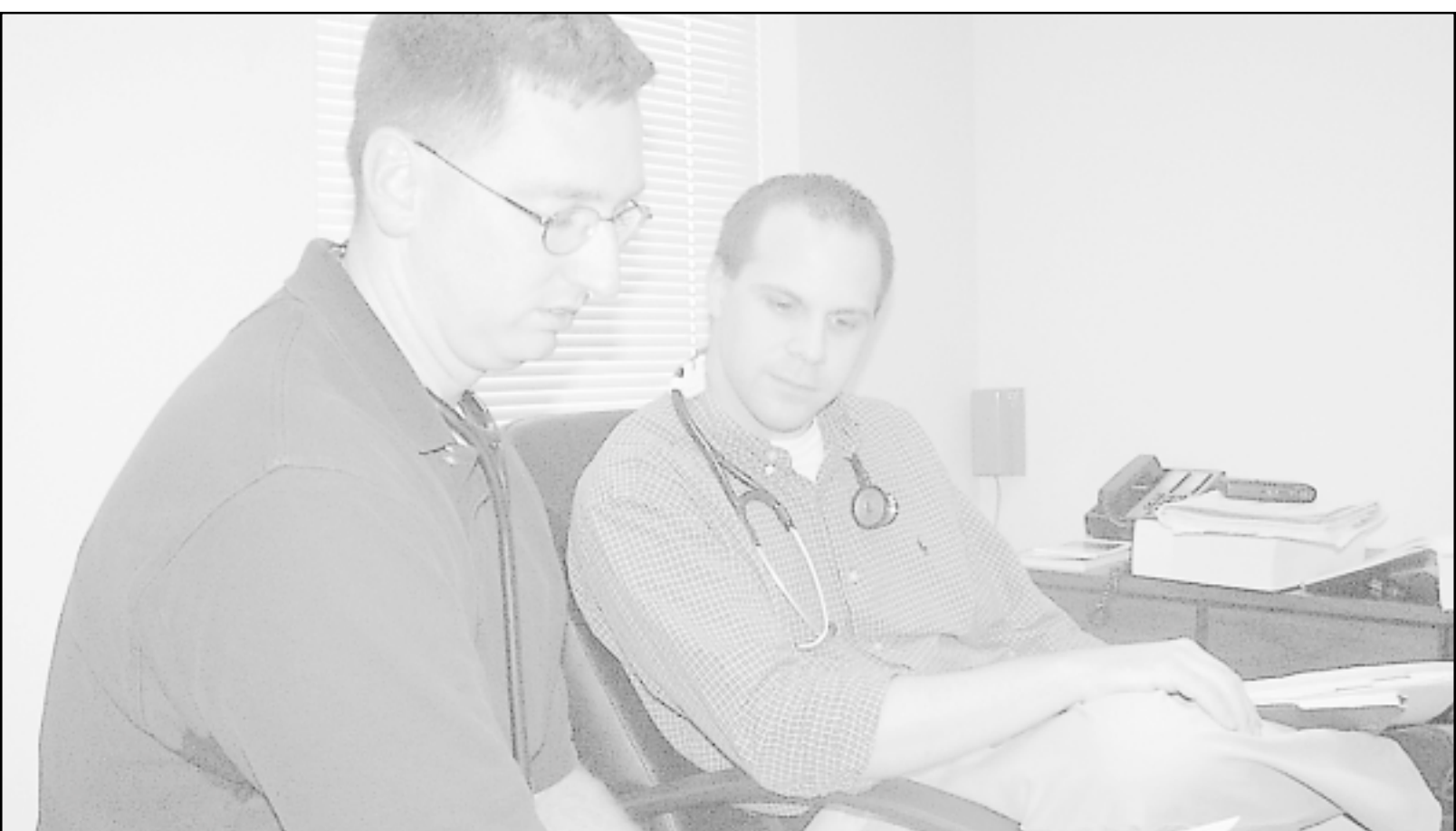
Reporters asked Shallenburger about educating the children of illegal immigrants. It was a key issue for Connie Morris, a St. Francis teacher who defeated Board Chairman Sonny Rundell in the Republican primary and faces no opposition in the Nov. 5 general election.

Morris said the cost of educating those children is draining the state's resources and suggested that it amounts to theft.

"I didn't know that was part of her platform," Shallenburger said. "I've never even thought about it."

Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran-Basso noted the U.S. Supreme Court made it clear in a 1982 decision that such a move is banned in the United States.

"We have an obligation to educate every child living in Kansas," Corcoran-Basso said.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Matt Hutchins, right, and Brian Unruh, both physician assistants at Colby Medical and Surgical Center, reviewed patient files recently

New physician assistant joins Colby clinic

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Members of the Colby community healthcare team recently welcomed a new physician assistant.

Matt Hutchins, a Salina native, accepted the position this month and is employed at Colby Medical and Surgical Center after being here on a student rotation last October, he said.

A graduate of Wichita State University with a bachelor of science degree in the physician assistant field, Hutchins said it was because of the caliber of medical professionals he met during his rotation in Colby that he decided this would be

a good place to locate his practice.

"I enjoyed working last October with (the late) Dr. Jeff Jennings and Brian Unruh, who is also a physician assistant," he said.

It was during the next few months, following his rotation in Colby, that Hutchins said he was offered a physician assistant position at the clinic.

He said he liked the community and both he and his wife, Brandee, are excited about being here.

Hutchins said he will be responsible for a wide range of patient care in the area of family medicine to include obstetrics, clinic work and emergency room. As a physician assistant, Hutchins will work closely with Dr.

LaDonna Regier at the clinic.

Hutchins said he also completed a preceptorship in Salina and has had training and experience in many areas to include Cesarean sections, various types of lacerations, suturing, splinting, casting and other trauma situations.

"We are very glad that Matt is here," said Dr. Victor Hildyard, one of the three physicians at the clinic. "He will be a valuable asset to our medical community." As a new physician assistant, Hutchins said he is just beginning to establish a practice and looks forward to meeting people and working with other providers in the area.

Although Hutchins was offered po-

sitions in his hometown of Salina, he said he chose Colby based on his rotation experience and the good things he saw firsthand and what others had to say about the community.

"I have heard from so many people here and around the area that Colby is a great place to live," he said, "and everyone I talked with speaks great things about this community."

Hutchins and his wife, Brandee, have a 10-month-old baby girl, Ainsley. He said his wife is currently a stay-at-home mom, but prior to their first child, she worked with the mentally challenged in Salina.

For questions or an appointment with Hutchins, call 462-3332.

WorldCom criminal investigation gaining momentum

NEW YORK (AP) — The criminal probe of the WorldCom accounting scandal appears to be picking up steam.

Prosecutors indicted two executives Wednesday, including former chief financial officer Scott Sullivan, and signaled that three other executives were prepared to plead guilty and cooperate with investigators.

Their anticipated cooperation could increase the pressure on Sullivan to strike a deal and tell what he knows about his boss, former CEO Bernard Ebbers.

The developments represent a major step forward in the investigation of WorldCom, the long-distance giant that filed for the biggest bankruptcy in U.S. history this summer after ques-

tionable accounting practices were revealed.

WorldCom was the largest company to tumble into bankruptcy in the wake of the collapse at Enron Corp. Investigators looking into the Enron debacle have also made headway in recent weeks.

In a seven-count indictment filed Wednesday in federal court in Manhattan, Sullivan was accused of overseeing a long-running conspiracy to hide operating expenses in order to boost WorldCom's earnings.

The indictment also named a new defendant, Buford Yates Jr., WorldCom's former director of general accounting, in the alleged scheme.

Ebbers' lawyers have said he had no

knowledge of the allegedly fraudulent accounting decisions that allowed the company to falsely report billions of dollars in nonexistent earnings. His name was not mentioned in the indictment.

As the indictment was unsealed, U.S. Attorney James Comey filed papers showing that former Controller David Myers and former accounting executives Betty Vinson and Troy Normand are preparing to waive their right to be indicted by a grand jury.

They could instead come to court to answer a criminal information, used by suspects who plead guilty under an agreement with authorities. Myers was charged in an earlier criminal complaint and Vinson and Normand have

been named unindicted co-conspirators.

Sullivan allegedly instructed the executives to hide WorldCom's increasing expenses, allowing the company to inflate its earnings.

"Sullivan, Yates, and their co-conspirators were able to assure that WorldCom's reported earnings exceeded its actual earnings for the period from October 2000 through April 2002 by approximately \$5 billion," the indictment said. "As Sullivan, Myers, Yates, Vinson, and Normand well knew, there was no justification in fact or under generally accepted accounting principles for these entries."

Marvin Smilon, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney, declined to say whether

Myers, Vinson and Normand are cooperating with prosecutors.

Yates' lawyer, David Schertler, said: "We were somewhat surprised with the indictment today. Without looking at it closely we're not really prepared to comment."

Sullivan's attorney, Irv Nathan, has said his client was a victim of "a rush to judgment."

Calls to other defense attorneys were not immediately returned.

WorldCom, which owns MCI, the nation's second-largest long-distance company, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy July 21 after disclosing the accounting abuses. It was the biggest such filing in U.S. history. Since then, the company has disclosed an addi-

Briefly

Youth activity in September

The Community Awareness Team is sponsoring a "Coffee House Night" in the City Limits conference room, Saturday, Sept. 14, from 8 to 11 p.m. The activity will feature an open microphone for youth to share poetry, music or other talents, and refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to all students. For questions or information, call Janet Worthly, coordinator, 462-8152.

No newspaper on Monday

The Colby Free Press will not publish a newspaper and the office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Commissioners to meet Friday

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet Friday at 9 a.m. in the courthouse for their end of the month meeting. On the agenda

are Molly Oliver to discuss the Red Cross; Duane Cheney to do an overview of the RC&D state meeting; and Kathi Wright, EMS Director, Joe Mildrexler and Gary Winter, Colby Community College, to propose and EMT training class.

Landfill to close for holiday

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed on Sunday, Sept. 1 and Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday. For information or questions, contact Larry Jumper at 462-8139.

EMT recruiting meeting tonight

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will have an informational meeting tonight beginning at 7 p.m. for the purpose of recruiting interested people in becoming emergency medical technicians. Everyone is invited to attend. For questions or information, call Kathi Wright, director, at 462-4585.

Actors sought for fall production

The Colby Community College drama department will be conducting auditions for the fall production of *Scapino!* by Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 4-5. Auditions will begin at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby College campus. The auditions are open to students and the community, said Walter Yuhre, drama instructor, and will consist of reading from the script. "Actors who have prepared monologues are invited to perform their audition pieces," he said. The play will feature roles for both men and women between the ages of 18 to 65 with performance dates of Nov. 7, 8 and 9. Those selected from the audition will begin rehearsing on Tuesday, Sept. 17. For questions or information, call Yuhre at 462-4783.

Democrats meet tonight

The Thomas County Democratic Central Committee will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Wednesdays high, 81
Low this morning, 62
Year ago today, 91 and 58
Temperature at 11:30 a.m. today, 79

Colby's 24-hour rainfall, 0.00
Oakley's 24-hour rainfall, .000
Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 77
Records for Aug. 29, 102 in 1947 and 41 in 1976

The forecast
Today's high should reach the mid-80 with breezy conditions. Tonight, a 60 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, some could be severe, lows in the lower 60s, south winds up to 15 mph. Friday night, clear, lows in the lower 60s. Saturday, sunny, highs in the mid-90s. *(Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)*

Colby Water Usage
• Aug. 28 = 1.344 million gallons
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

