

News from around the state

Governor's farm tour includes two candidates who want to take his job

HUDSON (AP)—Gov. Bill Graves was joined on his annual farm tour Tuesday by two people hoping to succeed him, who took the opportunity to lay out their own positions on agricultural issues.

"It does give us a chance to get away from Topeka and get a sense of what goes on in the real world," Graves said during one of several stops he made with Republican gubernatorial nominee Tim Shallenburger and Democratic nominee Kathleen Sebelius.

Sebelius, currently the state insurance commissioner, said the state needs an agriculture secretary who is not only a regulator but a promoter — a "passionate voice" for Kansas agriculture, she said.

Kansas must be as aggressive as Nebraska and Iowa in its ethanol program, she said, citing such steps as more tax incentives, helping to build ethanol plants and requiring that gas stations set aside 10 percent of their pumps for ethanol.

Other issues that are not specific to farming are critical to the well-being of rural as well as urban Kansas,

Sebelius said.

"Rural Kansas will not survive without quality schools and health care. ... Those issues are equally important in the farm community as are specific ag issues," she said.

Shallenburger, the state treasurer, said he is putting together an agricultural advisory committee. He said the state needs a plan that outlines a vision for the future of agriculture in Kansas.

"The number one concern we have is water — the quality and quantity of water is essential, essential not only for agriculture but for life itself," he said.

Shallenburger said Kansas must be involved in conservation efforts such as the underground drip irrigation program now used in some counties that helps irrigators pay to install the expensive water-saving systems.

"We have to make sure, as we make a statewide agricultural plan, that we understand most of the water in this state is consumed by agriculture," Shallenburger said. "And most of it needs to continue to be consumed by agriculture because it is the lifeblood of which we eat." <

GOP trying to make crime an issue against Sebelius

TOPEKA (AP) — Republicans tried Tuesday to make crime an issue in the governor's race, portraying Democratic nominee Kathleen Sebelius as a felon-coddling liberal.

But Sebelius had her counterattack ready, suggesting that GOP challenger Tim Shallenburger is soft on crime.

Their exchange came the same day a media poll said Sebelius had a double-digit lead and four days after her campaign publicized a "Republicans for Sebelius" organization.

Sebelius is trying to pull moderate GOP votes away from Shallenburger, a conservative.

"I think she's so far out of step with the public on crime issues that I think it ought to be pointed out," said State GOP Chairman Mark Parkinson. "She is an extreme liberal, pro-crime on crime issues."

Parkinson and Shallenburger pointed to Sebelius' record as a House member in 1987-94, before she became insurance commissioner.

They cited a 1994 vote against capi-

tal punishment, as well as a vote that year against legislation to permit the state to confine violent sexual offenders indefinitely for treatment being released from prison.

In addition, they noted that in 1990, she voted against a bill increasing penalties for selling or possessing drugs within 1,000 feet of a school.

Shallenburger served in the House in 1987-98, the last four years as speaker, before winning the state treasurer's office. He voted for all of the proposals. "I think my record's pretty clear on crime," Shallenburger said. "Most people know, if they really watched us in the Legislature, that she's liberal on these issues."

Sebelius had her response prepared in advance — a list of 21 votes Shallenburger made in the House. The list included votes against domestic violence and drunken driving, and expanded police powers.

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Bonding therapy said cause of death

Child allegedly forced to drink enough water to kill her

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Prosecutors say the parents of an adopted 4-year-old girl punished the child for sneaking sips of Kool-Aid by forcing her to drink enough water to cause fatal brain swelling.

Richard Killpack, 34, and Jennette Killpack, 26, of Springville, were charged with child abuse homicide and child abuse. Their daughter, Cassandra Killpack, died June 10.

Sherry Ragan, chief of Utah County Attorney's criminal division, said Cassandra was tied with her hands behind her back when she tried to fight off her parents. Cuts and bruises were found around the girl's mouth.

The girl's parents said she was given the water as part of a form of therapy to promote family bonding. Defense attorney Philip Danielson said Cassandra drank only three glasses of water.

"These parents had no intention of hurting their child. In fact, all this was done in an attempt to help the child through an extreme emotional problem," Danielson said.

Danielson said the parents were dealing with a girl who was physically and sexually abused before being adopted and wasn't bonding with her new parents. He said the Cascade Center for Family Growth in Orem pro-

moted forced water drinking for children with attachment disorder, believing it teaches children to seek out their parents for relief and comfort.

Center director Larry Van Bloem denied that his therapists promoted forced water drinking. "No, we never recommend it," he told The Daily Herald of Provo.

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